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Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO-Israeli Economic Agreement Signed in Paris

AFP Carries 'Summary' of Agreement

NC2904145694 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Paris, April 29 (AFP)—This is a summary of the main points of the agreement signed by Israel and the PLO covering economic relations once Palestinian autonomy begins in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as provided by the Israeli delegation:

IMPORT POLICY

Israel and the Palestinian Authority will have an import policy basically similar in all respects regarding imports and customs. Nonetheless, the Palestinian Authority will be able to import mutually agreed goods at customs rates differing from those prevailing in Israel, following jointly agreed import procedures. Moreover, it will be able to import goods from Arab countries, in agreed, limited quantities. Arrangements will be made for the two customs authorities to jointly operate the border crossing in Jericho and Gaza.

MONETARY POLICY

The Palestinian Authority will establish a monetary authority, whose main functions will be the regulating and supervision of the banks operating in the Area, the determination within certain limits of the liquidity ratios on deposits, the management of foreign exchange reserves and the supervision of foreign exchange transactions.

The two sides will continue to discuss the possibility of issuing various alternatives of a Palestinian currency. To encourage trade, they will mutually allow the opening of bank branches. Until then, the NIS (Israeli shekel) will continue to constitute a legal means of payment in the autonomy's areas side by side with other currencies.

DIRECT TAXATION

The Palestinian Tax Administration will conduct its own direct tax policy, including income tax on individuals and corporations, property taxes and municipal rates and fees, according to the policy and the rates determined by the Palestinian Authority.

The two parties will collect income taxes on economic activities conducted in their respective areas. Israel will transfer to the Palestinian Authority 75 per cent of the revenues from the income tax collected from Palestinians employed in Israel.

INDIRECT TAXATION

A VAT [value-added tax] system similar to that operating in Israel will be operated also by the Palestinian Authority.

The VAT rates of the Palestinian Authority will be between 15 per cent and 16 per cent.

LABOR

Work in Israel is essential for the Palestinians expanding their employment opportunities; The guiding principle in this sphere is to enable mutual movement of labor.

The rights of Palestinian workers employed in Israel will be preserved according to arrangements existing in Israel, a social security system being established in the meantime by the Palestinians.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture produce from the autonomy will enter Israel freely, except for five goods on which agreed import quotas have been imposed for five years: tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, eggs, and broilers.

MANUFACTURING

There will be free movement of goods manufactured in the Area.

TOURISM

A Palestinian tourist administration will be set up to manage subjects related to tourism in the areas of the Palestinian Authority. Tourists will move freely between Israel and the autonomy.

Tourist agencies, touring companies and tourist guides will be able to operate "on the other side" provided they satisfy the relevant professional criteria.

FUEL

The price of gasoline in the autonomy will be determined according to the autonomy's costs in purchasing it, and the taxes levied on gasoline in the autonomy. The agreement stipulates that the prices of gasoline will not fall short by more than 15 per cent of the maximum gasoline price in Israel.

INSURANCE

The agreement deals with two main topics:

a. The full transfer of the licensing and supervision authority over the insurance business in the areas of the Palestinian Authority.

b. An agreement for the compulsory insurance of motor vehicles and the compensation of the victims of road accidents based on:

- The Palestinian Authority maintain in its area a system of compulsory insurance of motor vehicles in the form existing in Israel, but with limited compensation. - Policies issued by the Palestinian Authority being valid also in Israel, and victims there being compensated according to the Israeli laws; and Israeli policies being valid in the areas of the Palestinian Authority.

Quray' Assesses Economic Pact

JN2904195294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1742 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO's Economic Department, by Kamal Tarabayh, in Paris on 29 April; from the "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Tarabayh] We appreciate your taking time off to speak on "The Event" program to mark the signing in Paris of an agreement setting out future economic relations between the Palestinians and Israel. You have been involved from the start in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, first about self-rule and later about economic issues. Are you comfortable with the results?

[Quray'] I cannot contain my relief over the agreement reached about the issues that we dealt with—what we have called the Paris Economic Relations Pact. The interim stage and the self-rule laws restrict our ambition to start a completely independent institution. However, the results we have attained from these negotiations lay the foundations and sow the strong seeds of an independent Palestinian state. Let me give you an example. Take currency and banks...

[Tarabayh, interrupting] So, from your perspective this is a general agreement that lays the foundations for the economic ties between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Quray'] That's correct. It is also a contractual agreement for the interim stage, not a final agreement. It is not an agreement whereby tariffs are nonexistent, as some have said. It is not a free trade agreement, as has been rumored. It is a contractual agreement for a transition period during which relations will be regulated and the Israeli and Palestinian economies will be disengaged...

[Tarabayh, interrupting] With the understanding that the agreement be reviewed later?

[Quray'] Yes, periodically. And, in the final stage, it will be reviewed radically and completely.

[Tarabayh] How does the agreement address the banking and monetary system?

[Quray'] Right from the start of the occupation, the Israelis have sought to shut down the banks and take control of monetary institutions and replace any Arab or foreign banks with Israeli banks. Whoever has control of the money secures control over the economic lifeline. That has been the policy of the occupation authorities from the first day of occupation in 1967. The agreement breathes new life into Palestinian financial institutions. It also expressly provides for the establishment of a multi-purpose Palestinian monetary institution as the official point of reference for the National Palestinian Authority and the public sector. It will act as an advisory body and hold the reserves of the National Palestinian Authority. There will be a special administration that will be responsible for licensing commercial banks and specialized banks and exchange services and money markets. It will monitor their performance and transactions.

[Tarabayh] Under what sort of monetary authority, a central bank, or what?

[Quray'] It will be not be called a central bank, but will handle all the responsibilities of one, except issue Palestinian currency. The institution that was established is a Palestinian central bank minus the function of issuing currency. You know that in some Arab states there is what they call the monetary agency, as in Saudi Arabia. It enjoys the full powers of issuing and protecting currency, among other functions. Thus, the establishment of the Palesinian Monetary Authority is one of the important seeds of Palestinian sovereignty and national independence. It is the only and fundamental means of reinjecting the Palestinian economy's veins with blood that has dried up over the years of occupation.

[Tarabayh] But, in this context, you have registered a retreat with regard to the Palestinian currency. What was the alternative?

[Quray'] As a matter of fact, the issue has nothing to do with either a retreat or progress on our part. We never thought the issue of launching a Palestinian currency would be accomplished without difficulties. We do have the right to issue a Palestinian currency. This right has remained intact. The agreement has underscored the Palestinians' right to issue their own currency. Hence, the agreement stipulated that the talks will continue, through the Joint Palestinian-Israeli Committee, in the immediate aftermath of the signing of this agreement to examine and consider the issuance of Palestinian currency. They have made offers that we have categorically rejected.

[Tarabayh] What are the offers they have made?

[Quray'] For instance, they have offered the issuance of a currency similar to the Scottish currency. We have categorically rejected this. This Palestinian currency was meant to be guaranteed by the Central Bank of Israel. We rejected this. We are speaking of an independent Palestinian currency to be issued by the Palestinian National Authority. If not possible today, let it be issued six months, or one year, from now.

[Tarabayh] Pending the materialization of this, what currency will be used? Will it be the Israeli shekel?

[Quray'] First, there is the Jordanian dinar, which is a basic and major currency in circulation. Moreover, there is also the shekel, which is also in circulation. They wanted the shekel to be legal tender [preceding two words in English]. We rejected this. We eventually agreed that the shekel will be a circulated currency. It goes without saying that we cannot do without the shekel as a circulated currency. This issue must be clear. For what is important is not to stick to slogans, but rather to be aware of the practices on the ground. The shekel is circulated on the ground. There are 2 billion shekels in circulation among the people. The workers' revenues and wages, which exceed $500-700 million per year, are paid in shekels. The trade exchange is also a factor to be taken into account. You cannot forget about these three factors at will, or just to vindicate a slogan. But, you can streamline, examine, and control these factors until you reach the desired situation. Hence, during the interim period, this interim contractual economic agreement will determine our moves with regard to the Israeli, Jordanian, or Palestinian currencies.

[Tarabayh] Brother Abu-'Ala': One of the outstanding issues concerned customs tariffs. There were Israeli concerns about this issue. By contrast, there was Palestinian determination regarding uncontrolled imports to the occupied territories. The Palestinians have eventually triumphed.

[Quray'] As a matter of fact, I can say we have achieved a significant part of what we sought in this area. We have not achieved all that we wanted. It is impossible for us to achieve all that we want.

[Tarabayh] How then have you dispelled Israeli concerns?

[Quray'] Let me tell you how. First, during the interim period, there are no demarcated borders. Consequently, the movement of commodities will continue to be free. The free movement of commodities from one market to another will cause one market to lose considerably if the customs tariffs are not close to one another. This was one of the major arguments they have advanced in this regard. I also believe that there were political considerations at play here. For, since the occupation of 1967, they have erected a high and extremely stringent wall of customs tariffs around the occupied territories. They incorporated the exports and imports of the occupied territories into the exports and imports of Israel. This all became part and parcel of the Israeli trade balance. Hence, there was no regional or international trade status for the occupied Palestinian territories. This status lost its distinct identity, and became part of the Israeli economy. This is how they planned. Now, what has this agreement produced? This agreement has put forth three, or four highly significant basic principles.

The first principle is that imports reflect the nature of the trade situation. There were no Arab ties at all with the occupied territories. Trade ties between the Arab countries and the occupied territories were one-sided. It is true that Arab countries received imports from the occupied territories. However, these countries have not exported commodities to these territories. Moreover, Palestinian merchants, businessmen, or lay men were unable to import commodities from Arab countries.

The other issue is that there were no ties at all with the Islamic world. Such ties were banned and prohibited.

The third issue is that the entire trade transactions, as well as the export and import operations with the outside world were part of the Israeli trade, as I have just mentioned. Therefore, this customs wall requires a shake, some disturbance, and a loophole if the new Palestinian baby is to be catapulted onto its strategic Arab stage, further onto its Islamic stage, and then onto the international stage. This has been achieved. Imports have been streamlined. There are four lists, in addition to a fifth one. The first list of commodities, on which we have agreed, concerns Arab products that will be procured by the occupied territories, particularly products coming from Egypt and Jordan. With regard to this list, it is the Palestinian authority that will make all customs and import policies regarding this list of commodities. Furthermore, it is the agency that will decide on the proper customs tariffs and fees in complete independence.

There is another list called A2. This is also a completely independent list of commodities including the commodities that will be imported from Arab and Islamic states. It is the first time Islamic states are being dealt with. It is the Palestinian authority that will determine the policies and customs tariffs and fees regarding this list of commodities in total freedom.

The third list concerns international aid, in development requirements, humanitarian aid, or construction equipment, etc. Once again, it is the Palestinian authority alone that will, by itself, decide on the customs fees of this list of commodities, the rates of these fees, and how these commodities enter the territories. This authority will make the overall policy regarding this list of commodities.

[Tarabayh] How is the Israeli authority then involved in this?

[Quray'] These lists are a Palestinian decision. The fourth list, which we called List B, is a very big one. The Palestinian authority decides all fees, custom tariffs, purchase tax, and others. However, imports, licenses, standards, and measurements will follow a joint policy. Luxury goods will also be subjected to joint tariffs and duties. This customs system, or customs wall, which was standing like steel around the occupied territory, has been shaken and the Palestinians emerged from it with a small customs book, which will undoubtedly grow and get bigger. For the sake of truth, it should be said that we were joined with brothers from Jordan on a very high level of knowledge, experience, expertise, and responsibility. They came from the high levels of power. They were with us for one and one-half months or more. We cooperated with each other, reached understanding, and discussed the overall proposed topics on a daily basis. We were also in constant and almost daily contact with our brothers in Egypt and a large number of experts and officials. We discussed things and exchanged views with them because we need expertise and experience in such matters.

[Tarabayh] Brother Abu-'Ala', there are many points in the agreement, particularly on tourism, agriculture, industry, energy, insurance, and so forth. In you opinion and without delving into the details of these points, what was the most prominent Palestinian accomplishment among these sectors?

[Quray'] I can say all these sectors. However, if I speak or someone addresses me on the basis of complete 100 percent independence, I will tell him no. I do not want to exaggerate or downplay the importance of what happened. What happened is something important. It is a seed, as I have said, to build a Palestinian entity, a Palestinian authority, an independent Palestinian state, but it is not complete. Had this been independence, I would not have negotiated anything with the Israelis. But I negotiated because it is a transitional phase. In all the mentioned sectors, we took the main seeds that prepare for the establishment of the independent institution. Industry is now our decision and the standards we decide will be the ones which will govern the industrial process. We are the ones who license industry and run its products. Accordingly, there is an independent Palestinian economic decision in the process of developing the industrial sector. The same applies to agriculture. There was a totally closed market in favor of the Israeli products. Only Israel had access to the Palestinian market without allowing the Palestinian products to enter the Israeli market. This new agreement opens the Israeli market for the first time to Palestinian agricultural products. The market has become open to both sides. Experience proves that Palestinian agricultural products are competitive. The simple Palestinian peasant managed to prove his very high competitive efficiency and capability in terms of quality and price. Now the Israeli market is open for him and competition is also open for him. I have great confidence that this Palestinian farmer will triumph in the process of competition. What we should not ignore, and what all our brothers the economists and others should know, is that they must exactly know the suffering and problems of all people, peasants, farmers, or workers before passing judgment.

[Tarabayh] What about tourism in the transitional phase?

[Quray'] A tourism authority has also been established. It enjoys all jurisdictions enjoyed by any ministry or tourism institution in any independent state. It is true that the jurisdiction of this tourism authority will come gradually, as stated in the Declaration of Principles. It will begin in Gaza and Jericho and then extend to the rest of the West Bank. This authority will be in charge of licensing the tourism institutions and guides and defining the historical, cultural, and religious sites. It can send its tourist buses to Israel or abroad and receive buses from the opposite direction. It can strike contracts with the tourism delegations.

[Tarabayh] Have tourism relations with Israel been defined?

[Quray'] They have not yet taken detailed form, but in general there is an exchange of tourists between us. The tourist who comes to them can come to areas of the Palestinian authority and vice versa.

[Tarabayh] What about the tourism development projects in Gaza and the Gaza beaches, for example?

[Quray'] This is a Palestinian decision by the Palestinian authority. Israel has not played any role in this and such cases have not even been discussed. Issues of joint work have not been discussed whether in the tourism or other sectors. We are in the stage of charting the framework laws, regulations, and bases of the Palestinian economic work and its organization.

[Tarabayh] Brother Abu-al-'Ala', when we interviewed you a month ago, the issue of the Palestinian manpower was one of the strongest issues on the agenda. In particular, there were statements by Israeli officials calling for replacing the Palestinian workers by foreign workers, particularly Asian workers. What was decided on this issue?

[Quray'] In fact, they wanted, and this is no longer a secret, to exploit this issue as a blackmail card. They use it from time to time. I do not mean during the negotiations, but in general. I mean when an operation is carried out, there will be collective and comprehensive punishment, and 70,000 or 100,000 workers are blocked. This is a collective punishment. It was used. Even at the negotiations, there was an attempt to use the workers issue as a blackmail card. We have refused to submit to this blackmail. Concerning the workers paper, we were interested in the following issues: First, there must be ordinary and normal movement of workers. At the beginning, we sought for this to be a free movement. They said we control the size of this manpower. We said that we also control its size. So, the process has become a mutual one. I mean that if they have the right to determine this from time to time, we also should have the right to decide on this from time to time. This is one issue. Another issue is that we were very concerned that since we seek to organize future labor relations, then all workers' rights must be the responsibility of the Palestinian authority, and that we should establish the necessary funds of social security and insurance to guarantee the workers' rights. This was met with positive response. The basic and important issue, which took a large part of the discussion and dialogue, is that we were very concerned about the fact that since this agreement regulates future relations, then it must not be unfair to or undermine acquired rights. Consequently, in this agreement, we have stressed that it regulates future relations, but it does not close the file on any issue related to the acquired rights of workers. On the contrary, it opens this file at the appropriate time. It has also confirmed that there are acquired rights.

[Tarabayh] This means that it guarantees the rights of the Palestinian manpower in Israel as they were before autonomy. Brother Abu-al-'Ala', finally, there is a question posing itself: Is there any contradiction between your economic agreement with Israel and that of the economic agreement with Jordan?

[Quray'] In order to be accurate, I would like to say that our main relationship is with the Arabs in general, and with Jordan and Egypt in particular. This is our natural relationship, which can be relationship of cooperation, brotherhood, unity, solidarity, integration. This is the relationship which has a strategic depth. Our relationship with Israel can be a relationship of cooperation or relationship which may or may not involve joint interests. However, with the Arab side, this relationship must be based on brotherhood, unity, and integration, etc. The nature of the interim period does not give the Palestinian side one hundred percent freedom to organize this relationship as we really want it to be. Our brothers in Jordan and Egypt understand this very accurately. This is why we say that they have contributed to forming the results of these negotiations.

[Tarabayh] For example, what about banking relations with Jordan?

[Quray'] The truth is that our relations go beyond this. This issue has its own philosophy in order to be able to cross from the interim period into a situation whose features we draw, and whose results are not imposed on us. This relationship with Jordan includes everything. It includes money, economy, trade, borders, customs, security, etc. This is especially true, taking into consideration that half of the Palestinians, or less, live in Jordan, as well as the nature of the fraternal, historical, and social relations. This issue cannot be evaded or ignored.

In the matter of the banks, there is no doubt there will be a relationship. We have now taken from the Israelis the Palestinian monetary authority—banks, licensing, and so on. We must be liberal and indulgent with our brothers in Jordan, more than anything else in the interest of building Palestinian institutions, availing ourselves of Jordanian expertise, and organizing the operation, performance, and monitoring of the banks during the interim stage, or for a duration to be agreed upon. The agreement reached with Jordan addressed these points and the commercial and economic links, in addition to the banking system and the movement of money.

[Tarabayh] My last question, brother Abu-al-'Ala'. What is your reaction to a remark made by Israel's Finance Minister Avraham Shohat following the signing of the agreement. He said the agreement should make it possible for the Palestinian and Israeli people to start and share a new life.

[Quray'] Let me put it like this: The agreement shifts the Palestinians from a state of dependency to one of a free decision whether to extend or withhold cooperation. We should also be able to determine the shape of that cooperation. As I have said at the beginning, we were in a state of total dependency where the Palestinians had no say. Now, they have a say; there is a transition period that calls for some measure of cooperation on a number of issues. We have now moved from a state of dependency where the Palestinians had no say to a certain form of cooperation necessitated by the nature of the transition period. The Palestinians will make their own decisions.

[Tarabayh] Thank you Abu-al-'Ala', Mr. Ahmad Quray', the PLO's Economic Department chief. One last word about the self-rule agreement, expected to be signed next Wednesday [4 May] in Cairo?

[Quray'] I think that, barring unforeseen, last-minute snags, the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be signed in Cairo and then the Declaration of Principles agreement launched on the ground. When that happens, I think the agreement itself will be seen in a better light, and, at the same time, it will advance Palestinian interests. If the agreement is not put into practice it will be seen in a bad light and set back Palestinian interests. We, therefore, should, from the beginning, be keen to render the agreement a success.

[Tarabayh] Thank you, brother Abu-al-'Ala'.

[Quray'] Thank you.

Further on Quray' Comments

JN2904144094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO's Economic Department, by Kamal Tarabayh in Paris on 29 April—recorded]

[Text] [Quray'] The most important positive point is that this agreement has been signed and laid the foundations for satisfactory and convincing policies for the process of an economic construction during the transition stage in the occupied Palestinian territories...

[Tarabayh, interrupting] Concerning the details...

[Quray'] Concerning the details, there is now a Palestinian monetary institution that enjoys almost 90 percent of a central bank's powers. With the exception of issuing banknotes, this institution enjoys all of a central bank's jurisdictions and powers. There is now a right to trade with the Arab world, with the Islamic world, and with the foreign world. Consequently, for the first time, borders are now open for Palestinian agricultural products to enter the Israeli market. In the past, the Palestinian market was open to the Israeli agricultural products, but Palestinian products were not allowed to enter the Israeli market. Now, the market is open. Industry has also become the right of the Palestinian authority which decides, defines, and issues licenses. It even defines the standards of the Palestinian industry. There are important issues which....[sentence incomplete as heard]

[Tarabayh] Concerning the Palestinian workers' movement between the autonomous region and Israel, are there any specific measures which contribute to the freedom of their movement?

[Quray'] The agreed upon thing is that there will be freedom of movement for both sides' workers, and any of the two sides has the right to determine the number of these workers.

[Tarabayh] Do you consider this economic agreement a basic pillar for the completion of the autonomy agreement and the establishment of a national authority?

[Quray'] I believe we have made the basic and major step toward the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

[Tarabayh] Still, there are pending issues over which there are differences. In short, what are the most important of these issues?

[Quray'] There are points. This is a big, complicated, and long issue. There is an occupation which will be replaced by a new national authority. Therefore, there are many pending issues.

[Tarabayh] What about customs and fees?

[Quray'] Many issues and problems have been solved, and policies have been drawn. These policies might be reconsidered and developed at a later time in light of experience and implementation on the ground.

[Tarabayh] What about currency?

[Quray'] Currency is not the main point, but one of the points. When the authority is established on the ground, our people, everywhere, will have an authority to take care of them and of their affairs, and to adopt their issues.

Accord Allows for Stock Exchange

TA0205044094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Israel has permitted the Palestinian autonomy to establish an institution parallel to a securities exchange. This transpires from the Israeli-PLO economic agreement. Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the Gaza and Jericho municipalities will be able to issue bonds to raise capital inside the autonomy, while economic bodies will be able to issue stocks.

Israeli Official: 'Arafat May Enter Jericho in Jun

NC2904114494 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Jerusalem, April 29 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat should enter the West Bank town of Jericho in the first week of June, a senior Israeli negotiator said Friday [29 April].

"There is nothing to stop Yasir 'Arafat going to Jericho as soon as the autonomy agreement is signed on Wednesday," said the official who refused to be named.

"But he will no doubt wait until the first week of June when the Israeli army has completed its withdrawal and redeployment," the negotiator told journalists aboard a return flight to Tel Aviv from Cairo where an agreement to launch autonomy was reached on Thursday.

The official also confirmed that besides freeing 5,000 Palestinian prisoners after the agreement is signed, Israel and the PLO had decided that Palestinians opposed to the peace process could also be released from jail.

But he explained: "We are ready to envisage such releases only if the prisoners make a written commitment (renouncing violence) and if their hands are not stained with (Israeli) blood."

Negotiations would continue on the fate of the 9,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, he said.

'Arafat Considering Visit to Jericho on 5 May

TA0205090294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 May 94 p 9

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat is considering the possibility of making a two-day visit to Jericho on 5 May, the day after the signing of the agreement between the PLO and Israel. This was discussed yesterday in talks between PLO and Israeli representatives.

'Arafat said he wants to visit to drum up support for the PLO and weaken Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and those opposed to the agreement. [passage omitted]

Israel Reportedly To Release 8,400 Detainees

NC2904155494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have said that agreement has been reached with Israel for the release of 8,400 Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons. In a statement to MENA, the sources said that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will cover all the detainees, irrespective of their political affiliations.

The sources added that a detailed program is currently being prepared for the release of these detainees, and that 5,000 of them will be released within one month of the signing of the agreement for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. They said that 2,500 of the 5,000 will be released two days after the signing, 2,000 at the start of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, and 500 after the withdrawal is completed.

The sources explained that a program will be prepared for the release of the remaining 3,400 detainees, which will begin with the start of negotiations for the implementation of self-rule in the West Bank.

Timetable for Prisoner Release Detailed

TA0105080194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Immediately after the signing of the agreement in Cairo on Wednesday, the release of the first half of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners slated to be released will commence. The release process will continue until the beginning of the week following the signing of the agreement. Twelve hours after the agreement is signed, the Palestinian police force will start moving from Egyptian Rafah into the Gaza Strip via the Rafah border terminal. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that the convoy will include jeeps, light armored cars, and approximately 1,500 policemen under Raji Jabali, commander of the Gaza Strip police. They will be accompanied by Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Gaza Strip security services, who is considered to be the strong man in the Gaza Strip.

Approximately 500 policemen will arrive in Jericho, but it is still unclear whether they will enter from Gaza, via the open passage agreed upon by the two sides, or from Jordan, via the Allenby Bridge. The policemen will be accompanied by administrative workers from the PLO headquarters in Tunis, and Jibril al-Rajub, head of the Palestinian security services in the West Bank.

Yasir 'Arafat will apparently arrive in the territories on 15 June, after preparations in the field and the organization of the Palestinian institutions in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. He will be received in a large ceremony attended by ambassadors and possibly heads of state.

Rabin, 'Arafat Reportedly To Review Prisoner Cases

NC0105160294 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 1 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will personally assess the cases of certain Palestinian prisoners whom the PLO wants released, a Palestinian negotiator said Sunday [1 May].

"The cases of certain prisoners will be discussed at the highest level," said Jibril Rajjub.

But he would not say whether they belonged to the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Meanwhile, chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th, arriving in Cairo from Tunis, said the draft accord for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho had been approved by 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction.

Israel has already agreed to release 5,000 of the 10,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails within three weeks of a self-rule deal being signed.

But it has refused to release any prisoners who took part in bloody attacks on Israelis, despite the PLO's insistence that all prisoners should be freed.

Sha'th returned to Cairo Sunday to start a new, and possibly last, round of talks with Israeli negotiators.

Rajjub said the question of prisoners was the chief remaining hurdle.

Israel had offered to release 3,400 more prisoners in return for an amnesty for Palestinian collaborators, PLO sources said last week.

Talks were due to resume here Sunday to iron out the last differences before a signing ceremony scheduled for Wednesday in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Rabin and 'Arafat are expected here Tuesday to sort out any last-minute problems before signing the autonomy accord for the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Sha'th said he had attended meetings of the Fatah and PLO executive committees to debate the final Palestinian decision.

He said Fatah had agreed to the accord, and the PLO's executive committee was to meet again before making a decision.

'Final Round' of PLO-Israeli Negotiations Begins

NC0105133994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—The final round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations began here today to put the final touches on the general agreement on th e implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian delegation is led by Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, because Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President 'Arafat's political adviser, is currently in Tunis. The Israeli delegation is led by Amnon Shahaq, the assistant chief of staff, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Palestinian delegation member Khalid al-Qidrah stated that the two delegations will complete drafting the general agreement. He said: We are about to finish. I think that we will finish everything in time.

Sources close to the negotiations said that over the past two days the Palestinian and Israeli delegations have narrowed the differences on all points a great deal. The sources said that the two delegations will draft some paragraphs in the agreement but they are still under discussion.

They said that with regard to the entry of the Palestinian police into Gaza and Jericho, the Israeli delegation thinks that an initial group of 25 policemen can enter on the day of the signing. They added that 1,000 to 1,500 policemen will enter the territories within one week of the signing. The remainder will follow. The sources explained that the number of Palestinian policemen agreed upon is 9,000.

The sources said that the Palestinian delegation thinks there is no sense in the entry of an initial small group, and that the whole Palestinian police force should enter the autonomous areas during the first week after the signing and after the Israeli withdrawal, which will begin the day after Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sign the Gaza-Jericho autonomy agreement.

The source said that on Tuesday 'Arafat and Rabin will discuss two points, namely the size of Jericho's area and the presence of a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge.

One opinion is that the area of Jericho should be 57 square kilometers, the sources said, adding that Israel will also agree to the presence of an Israeli policeman at the crossing point when the Palestinians enter and an inconspicuous Israeli observer to intervene whenever there is suspicion regarding those who cross into the autonomous areas.

Sha'th Arrives in Cairo From Tunis To Join Talks

NC0105161194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, arrived in Cairo this evening from Tunis via Rome. Sha'th said in an arrival statement that in Tunis he attended meetings held by the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee to adopt a decision regarding the agreement to be signed on Wednesday in Cairo on Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

He said that the Fatah Central Committee had approved this agreement, and the PLO Executive Committee will continue discussing it at a meeting to be held today. He said that the two Palestinian bodies were briefed on what was agreed upon and the outstanding issues on which agreement will be sought. We are armed with a strong stand by the PLO and the Fatah Movement, he said.

Regarding the most important topics to be discussed at the current Palestinian-Israeli round of negotiations, Sha'th said: We will strive to complete the drafting of the general agreement and reach agreement on some security issues and the geographical jurisdiction issue. He added: We have opened the way to a new dawn for our Palestinian people after their long suffering under harsh, oppressive, and illegitimate occupation.

Further on Sha'th's Return to Cairo

JN0105183794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] On the line from Cairo now is Sha'ul Menashe to update us on the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Good evening, Sha'ul.

[Menashe] Good evening to you. A short while ago, Dr. Nabil Sha'th arrived here at the site of the negotiations from Tunis where he held meetings and consultations. He told journalists:

[Begin Sha'th recording] I outlined to Fatah's Central Committee and the PLO's Executive Committee, as did my brother Abu- al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] how things stand vis-a-vis the Gaza-Jericho accord and the economic agreement. A deep and exhaustive study of every aspect of these agreements was undertaken. We obtained Fatah's Central Committee's ratification of what has been agreed upon, and we received instructions for the next few days leading up to the signing on Wednesday [4 May]. [end recording]

[Menashe] Nabil Sha'th expects the Legal and Security Committees will now proceed to draft the agreement without any hitches.

Foreign Ministers Invited to Signing Ceremony

NC3004163294 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Egypt has invited the foreign ministers of the states that took part in the peace conference in Madrid in October 1991 to attend the ceremony that will be held under President Mubarak's sponsorship on Wednesday [4 May] morning to sign the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to begin the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will arrive in Cairo on Tuesday afternoon to meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who will arrive on the same day, to discuss the two remaining points concerning the area of Jericho and the Allenby Bridge.

'Text' of Draft Declaration Proposed by U.S.

PM2904111294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 94 pp1, 4

["Unofficial Text of the Draft Declaration of Principles Proposed by the United States to the States Participating in the Multilateral Negotiations"—AL-HAYAH headline]

[Text] Taking into consideration the urgent need for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; recognizing the historic achievements made since the 1991 Madrid conference on peace in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda;

recognizing that the working committees stemming from the multilateral negotiations complement the bilateral negotiations and help improve the atmosphere with a view to putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict by creating opportunities for regional cooperation in tackling practical and important regional issues; agreeing that all parties in the region should work jointly for the common objective of establishing full and permanent relations of peace, reconciliation, frankness, mutual trust, security, stability, and economic and social cooperation and progress throughout the entire region; having commenced the multilateral negotiations with the following aims:

—Providing a concept for the Middle East that would serve as a guide to the next steps in the process and give the peoples of the region confidence and hope for material improvements in their lives as a result of the establishment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace;

—Consolidating arms control and regional security arrangements aimed at promoting mutual security for all with the least possible level of armament and armed forces;

—Alleviating the tragedies of those who have become refugees as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict with emphasis on tangible projects to improve the living conditions of all the Palestinian refugees.

In anticipation of comprehensive peace, the multilaterals [negotiations] will seek to enhance regional cooperation and economic development with Israeli and Arab participation through tangible projects in which the parties of the region would participate;

—Enhancing water supplies for the people of the region by boosting cooperation among the parties in activities that would lead to a better use of the existing resources and better supply;

—Improving the environment in the region through cooperation in the fields of environmental management, sea pollution, water quality, drainage, and handling of barren land and creeping desert.

Recognizing that complete fulfillment of the objectives stated in this declaration would be facilitated by the participation of all the regional parties in the multilateral negotiations, especially Syria and Lebanon; and calling on all these parties to support the principles included in this declaration and to join the multilateral negotiations at an early date,

The Steering Committee stemming from the multilateral negotiations has adopted the following:

Basic principles governing relations between the regional parties in the Middle East:

The regional parties in the Middle East, in seeking a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and in aspiring to a prosperous future for the region's peoples involved, will establish relations according to the following basic principles:

—Respect for and recognition of all provisions of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.
—Respect for the UN Charter.
—Respect for and recognition of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.
—Peaceful settlement of disputes.
—Honest fulfillment of commitments according to international law.
—Freedom of access to the wealth of knowledge and information across national borders.
—Encouragement of individual and collective freedoms, individual initiative, and creativity of the people of the region, with a pledge of democracy and plurality.
—Market economy should be acknowledged as a main factor in decisions relating to the movement of goods, services, and ideas.

General guidelines for the multilateral negotiation parties in the peace process:

The Steering Committee has adopted the following as general guidelines for the multilateral negotiations and process:

—As part of the peace process which began in Madrid in 1991, the multilateral negotiations should be completed and should create a suitable atmosphere for progress in the bilateral negotiations. The task groups should proceed at their own pace.
—The multilateral negotiations should concentrate on planning and implementing tangible projects.
—Every task group should consider and implement clear and binding projects that would meet the needs of the region's peoples.
—The multilateral process should seek to organize and coordinate the financing of agreed regional projects.
—Individual activities should be programmed and coordinated to increase their effectiveness and minimize their ineffectiveness.
—The multilateral task groups should examine ways to ensure the participation and expansion of the role of the private sector in regional cooperation.
—Official and unofficial communications between the regional participants should be enhanced through a communications network.
—The multilateral process should begin to develop a vision of the region after the establishment of peace on the bilateral tracks, including a study of regional establishments which the region might need, and development of such establishments.

Declaration of intentions relating to the aims of the multilateral negotiations:

In the course of the promotion of a reconciliation and a just peace and lasting comprehensive security, the Steering Committee sets, among other things, the following aims for the task groups emanating from the multilateral negotiations:

—Control of armament and regional security: Prevention of disputes resulting from misunderstanding or miscalculation by adopting confidence and security building measures and by cutting military expenditure in the region, reducing traditional arms arsenals, preventing the traditional arms race, moving toward power structures that do not go beyond legitimate defense needs, and creating a region free from all weapons of mass destruction.

—The environment: Implementation of regional projects for treatment of sea pollution, water quality, drainage, management of barren land and creeping desert, and creation of regional foundations for environmental issues.

—The refugees: Development of a data center for information on the number of the refugees, assessment of the costs of the various required solutions, and efforts to improve their economic and social conditions without fanaticism and without prejudging the political negotiations.

—Regional economic development: Elimination of the obstacles impeding free economic dealing (movement of goods, capital, and work force) across the borders, development of economic resources and projects on a regional basis, and creation of free trade zones and foundations for regional economic cooperation.

—Water: Implementation of programs to improve the supply of adequate quantities of good water to the peoples of the region, including an information bank for water resources, programs for cooperation to preserve water and improve its reservoirs, as well as regional water management plans.

Radio Details 'Majdal Shams First' Offer

TA3004092694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Druze leaders on the Golan Heights and in the Galilee have urged the Israeli Government, if its transfers Druze villages to Syria as part of a settlement, not to differentiate between the villages.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that on the map prepared by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] within the framework of the plan called Majdal Shams First, three Druze villages—Majdal Shams, Mas'adah, and Buq'ata—will be transferred to the Syrians, while 'Ayn Qunyah, which is situated on lower terrain, will remain with Israel.

The Druze are demanding that the villages not be divided up and that all the lands that belong to them be transferred to Syria. Several Druze families on the Golan Heights have bought land in various locations in the Galilee in order to move there if the Golan is returned to Syria. Other Druze families are looking into that possibility and also the prospect of buying land on the Karmel. Our correspondent notes that Druze leaders are helping the Golan Druze.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0705 GMT on 30 April in a similar, but longer, report on the proposal adds: "Mt. Hermon and the road leading up to it, will of course remain under Israeli control. Israel is offering al-Asad two options, the first of course, preferable to us: Take the Druze villages first, we tell him, without the move being preceded by a pronouncement that we are conceding our sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The Israeli carrot to that option is a readiness to implement it immediately within three months. Al-Asad is a tough customer, therefore it is more reasonable that he will prefer the second option: The word first will be fortified by a Knesset resolution which recognizes Syrian sovereignty over the entire Golan Heights. What will sweeten Rabin's bitter pill is the fact that not a single Israeli settlement will be evacuated, just as in Gaza and Jericho First."]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Balance of Payments Deficit Cut 65 Percent

NC3004122094 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 30 Apr 94

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 30 (AFP)—A decline in imports by key Arab oil producers and economic reforms by non-oil states slashed the Arab balance of payments deficit by nearly 65 percent in 1992, an official report said on Saturday [30 April].

The deficit, which was non-existent during the oil boom, stood at seven billion dollars in 1992 compared with 20 billion dollars in 1991, said the report released by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

The report divided the 22-member Arab League into two groups: the first comprising the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) plus key oil producers Iraq, Libya and Algeria, and the second the 13 members, which have little oil.

It showed exports of goods and services by the first group increased slightly to 114 billion dollars from 113 billion dollars while exports by the second group jumped to 34 billion dollars from 29 billion dollars.

"What helped this positive development in exports by the second group is the policy of freeing prices of goods and exchange rates, easing government restrictions on foreign trade and supporting export activities by the private sector as part of economic reforms," the report said.

Imports by the second group rose to 47 billion dollars from 41 billion dollars while the first group slashed imports to 108 billion dollars from 121 billion dollars in the same period, it said.

Experts said the combined Arab balance of payment deficit was caused by a sharp decline in crude prices over the past decade as oil exports account for more than 70 percent of the total Arab exports.

In 1980, when oil prices shot above 30 dollars, exports by the first group peaked at 235 billion dollars. With imports standing at 114 billion dollars, the balance of payments registered a record surplus of 121 billion dollars before it started to deteriorate in the following years.

Such exports plummeted to 108 billion dollars in 1985 when oil prices went below 20 dollars then recovered slightly to 113 billion dollars in 1991.

The report said the improvement in exports of goods and services by the second group pushed their ratio to the Gross Domestic Product to 27 percent in 1992 from between 18 and 24 percent in the first half of 1980s.

A breakdown showed members of the first group, except Kuwait and Iraq, had a surplus in their balance of payments in 1992 while all those in the second group were still suffering from a deficit.

The biggest surplus was recorded in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), standing at 4.47 billion dollars. It stood at 1.12 billion dollars in Algeria and between one billion and two billion dollars in Oman and Qatar.

In Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, the surplus was only 693 million dollars due to a surge in imports, the report said.

Kuwait, which had enjoyed a persistent surplus before the 1990 Iraqi invasion, suffered from a small deficit of 30 million dollars because of a sharp rise in imports and a decline in oil exports.

Iraq, still under a UN embargo, had a deficit of 728 million dollars, with exports standing at 413 million dollars and imports at 1.141 billion dollars. The report did not give details of the Iraqi trade.

The report, which covered economic developments in the Arab world for 1992, showed public and private investment in the region totalled 112 billion dollars during that year compared with 98 billion dollars in 1991.

Around 83.6 billion dollars were invested in the first group and Saudi Arabia received the lion share, with investment of 29.5 billion dollars. The report showed investment in Iraq stood at 14.2 billion dollars while no investment was registered in war-torn Somalia.

It estimated the combined Arab Gross National Product at 478.9 billion dollars, of which the first group accounted for 347.7 billion dollars.

Islamic Affairs

ICO London Delegates Meet With Hogg on Bosnia

LD2904203794 Riyadh SPA in English 1953 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] London, April 29, SPA—A delegation comprises of heads of Islamic diplomatic missions in London held a meeting here today with the British state Minister Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg and the talks dealt with the latest developments of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The team groups the heads of diplomatic missions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Turkey, Senegal, Pakistan, Egypt, and Iran. The seven countries are members of the liaison group assigned by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Comference Organization—ICO] to deal with the the Bosnian crisis.

A statement issued afterwards said the delegation conveyed to the British minister the grave concern of the OIC's member states on the continuing attacks waged by the Serbian forces on the city of Gorzade which was delcared as a safe haven by the United Nations.

The delegation also briefed the Mr. Hogg [as received] on the contents of the statement issued by the foreign ministers of the liasion group after a meeting in New York on the Bosnian issue last Wednesday.

The statement of the foreign ministers of the seven OIC's member states expressed the anger and anxiety of the OIC's member states on the current Bosnian situation and called on for immediate lift of the arms embargo imposed on the republic of Bonsia-Herzegovina and enabling the Bosnian people of exercising their legitimate right of self-defense according to Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

The ministers welcomed the ultimatum issued by the NATO on April 22 for protection of safe havens and called on for enhancement of the international protection in the Bosnian Republic and the ministers confirmed the readiness of the OIC's states to provide adequate number of land troops for the purpose.

The statement said the ministers also expressed the OIC's support for the idea of holding an international conference for peace in former Yugoslavia providing that the Serbs would not be allowed to exploit the meeting as cover for their expanionist plots.

At the end of the meeting, the British minister promised to keep the team acquainted with the developments on the matter and to consult with them on new development concerning the crisis.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Apr

NC3004074094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 22 April issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

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7. Ennahda Leader Interviewed on Tunisian Situation, Prospects

ASYUT GROUP ESCALATES OPERATIONS, SUHAJ GROUP SEEKS DIALOGUE

A 350-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi and 'Adil al-Bahnasawi on pages 1 and 7 says that the Islamic Group has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Brigadier General Shirin 'Ali Fahmi, commander of Asyut security forces, and his bodyguard. "In a statement faxed to AL-SHA'B" the group said this was "the sixth in a series of operations to confront human right violations in prisons."

The report cites a statement issued by the Islamic Group in Suhaj "denouncing violence and the killing of innocent people", originally published in the London-based AL-HAYAH. Issued at a seminar in Suhaj, Upper Egypt, the statement affirms that the Islamic Group "does not object to engaging in any dialogue to solve problems" and that "it calls for laying down arms, renouncing violence, and resorting to law, reason, and logic to contain the crisis."

The report also notes that "the security service in Asyut has discovered a detective in the Dayrut police station who cooperates with the Islamic Group." The detained detective revealed that "other officers are working for the Islamic Group," the report says.

BROTHERHOOD CALLS FOR BOYCOTTING SERBIAN SUPPORTERS

An unattributed 100-word report on page 7 notes that "the Muslim Brotherhood has called on all Muslims to declare a political and economic boycott of the states that support the Serbian aggression against the Bosnian Muslims." The Brotherhood suggests that specialized institutions be set up in individual states to "supervise the boycott measures."

The report adds that the Brotherhood blames the major states and the United Nations for Serbian crimes and condemns the "failure and capitulation of the officials in the Arab and Muslim worlds in their stance on the Serbian aggression."

ISLAMISTS TO RUN UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS' CLUB ELECTIONS

A 150-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad on pages 1 and 7 says that "current Islamic representatives" will hold elections this month to select members of the professors' clubs at the universities of Cairo and al-Zaqaziq.

WRITER ADVOCATES MEDIATION BETWEEN POLICE, ISLAMISTS

In a 1,200-word article on page 9, Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh expresses surprise at the "persisting bloodshed and series of mutual executions between police and Islamic groups." He regrets the absence of "serious and sincere attempts" to end this situation, since the victims are always the sons of the Egyptian nation.

He notes that security campaigns will not succeed in overcoming extremism, since prevailing conditions provide adequate soil for the growth of more violence. He argues that the only approach guaranteed to put an end to this bloodshed is mediation by Muslim scholars to reconcile the two sides.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES SEEN AS CAUSE FOR VIOLENCE

In a 2,000-word article on page 3, Dr. Rafiq Habib argues that "terrorism has become an excuse for sustaining the ruling regime and justifying Mubarak's continued to rule." He says that the regime has divided Egyptian society into "terrorists and non-terrorists," the latter being the government which, protected by the law and the media, tightens its grip on all and remains unaccountable.

Habib adds that it is wrong to believe the government media campaign, which alleges that we are up against a terrorist phenomenon financed by foreign states. He contends that this campaign seeks to present the situation as a battle between the Islamic groups and society, thereby authorizing the government to play the role of the policeman who protects society. But the truth is that these groups are against the government, not the people; they are working to overthrow the regime.

The writer says "the armed Islamic protest" provides strong evidence that "the regime is no longer capable of realizing society's aspirations" and that the present policies divide society and make violence the only effective approach.

Habib says that the problem lies in the fact that "we are subject to imported values and are being ruled by a regime that draws its legitimacy from Western systems at a time when our original values are buried inside us." He adds that the policies of the present regime are merely fulfilling the terms of the West, from which the regime benefits in the form of financial and political support.

Finally, he calls for rectifying the basic causes of unrest and for reevaluating the government policy in order to avoid further bloodshed. He advises the regime to ally with the people instead of the West.

BIRTH CONTROL SEEN AS CONSPIRACY AGAINST MUSLIM NATION

In a 4,000-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes about the UN population conference recently held in Cairo. Citing the Koranic verse "there is no moving creature on earth but its sustenance dependenth on God," he says the old Western call to curb the population increase in order to save limited resources runs counter to God's promise to provide all creatures with their needs.

Showing how the world population balance shifted in favor of the "oppressed world" in the 1950's, he argues that this shift is part of "the heavenly arrangements that herald the approaching triumph of the faithful." The pharaohs and tyrants of this age reject this and seek to change it as much as they can. He notes that "they are plotting to annihilate mankind on our continents, with the Islamic nation heading their targets, of course."

Husayn contends that birth control in the Arab and Muslim world is unjustified, since Arab and Muslim populations are not large enough to exploit the abundant natural and financial resources.

He believes that the people should stand up to the "official media" to prove that increasing our birth rate is "a blessing that warrants no regret or apology." He expects the population policy to be completely different "when patriotic Islamists" rule the country.

ENNAHDA LEADER INTERVIEWED ON SITUATION, PROSPECTS

In a 1,500-word interview with Ennahda leader Rached Ghannouchi in Tunis by Lutfi Bin-Ramadan, published on page 8, Ghannouchi relates how the government, fearing the Islamic movement's success in the 1989 elections, set out to uproot Islamists in collaboration with the communists and all anti-Muslim currents. Describing the situation in the wake of recent elections, Ghannouchi says that "it is a battle between a corrupt, totalitarian dictatorship and a civilian society with all its Islamic, secular, and patriotic categories that struggle for their public and private political and religious freedoms." He expects these "farcical elections to inspire a national front involving all the factors of the civilian society to fight dictatorship until the people's will is liberated."

Arguing that the people's boycott of the elections indicates a public rejection of the ideas and personalities imposed on them, Ghannoouchi says that "the apparent state of peace is merely the lull that precedes the storm." Although the regime has exploited world conditions that are going against Islam and the Islamic movement, the liberal and democratic powers inside and outside the country realize that the battle against fundamentalism is only a pretext for the regime's suppression of public and individual freedoms. It is opening the door to corrupt currents, he says.

Touching on the situation in Algeria, Ghannouchi notes that Algeria enjoys a distinctive status in the Arab Maghreb. He believes that the situation in Algeria is ready for an inevitable change and that "the Islamists are coming under the leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front." Because of its fragility, Tunisia will be the most affected by what happens in Algeria, he adds.

Ghannoouchi wishes the Tunisian regime had been as flexible, prudent, and clever as the Jordanian or Moroccan regimes in dealing with the inevitably escalating Islamic current. "It could have achieved a degree of openness and freedom of change, cleared the political climate, and engaged in a serious dialogue with all the cultural and social powers to develop a coexistence formula," he says. However, he finds it unlikely the regime will take such a rational course.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Central Committee Approves Draft Agreement

NC0105194394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—The Fatah Central Committee, the PLO mainstream faction, has approved the draft Palestinian-Israeli agreement scheduled to be signed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo on 4 May.

The approval came during a four-hour meeting which the Fatah Central Committee held today under 'Arafat to discuss the final draft of the agreement. Palestinian chief negotiator Dr. Nabil Sha'th last night briefed the committee on the details of the agreement.

The agreement was approved with a majority of votes of the 18-member committee. Hani al-Hasan, Khalid al-Hasan, and 'Abbas Zaki were absent from the meeting.

For over a week the committee discussed the details of the draft, which consists of over 90 pages containing the details of the agreement which the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have reached after months of talks in Cairo.

Executive Committee Appoints Gaza-Jericho Council

NC0205081694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 2 May (MENA)—The PLO Executive Committee has approved the draft agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as worked out by Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in Cairo. The agreement will be signed Wednesday [4 May] by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a ceremony under the patronage of President Husni Mubarak.

The committee approved the draft by a majority vote during a meeting chaired by 'Arafat. The meeting began last night and continued until early this morning.

PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah said the committee has completed the formation of the National Authority Council. The council, which will be under the chairmanship of 'Arafat, will have 25 members of which half of will be from the inside [the occupied territories] and the other half from the outside. It will be in charge of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, Ghawshah explained. The formation of other self-rule institutions has also been adopted, he said.

Ghawshah said the names of the council members as well as the names of members of other institutions will be announced after the self-rule agreement has been signed. Israel will be informed of these details and of the date the members will enter Gaza and Jericho, he said.

It should be noted that the Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest PLO faction, yesterday approved the Palestinian-Israeli draft agreement after a four-hour meeting chaired by Yasir 'Arafat.

Fatah Names Key Council Members

NC0105202194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 1 May (MENA)—The Fatah Central Committee tonight ended its consultations on the formation of the National Authority Council that will run self-rule affairs in the Gaza strip and Jericho.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahman, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, said the National Authority Council will comprise 25 members, half of them from the occupied Palestinian lands and the other half from Palestinians of the diaspora, in addition to Yasir 'Arafat.

Among key members from diaspora Palestinians are Economic Department Chief Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala'; Dr. Nabil Sha'th; and Intisar al-Wazir, also known as Umm-Jihad. Key representatives from residents of the occupied Palestinian territories are Faysal al-Husayni from the West Bank and Zakariya al-Agha from Gaza. The council will also include Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Samir Ghawshah, Yasir 'Amr, and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will not be a council member because the Political Department will remain outside Gaza and Jericho, most probably in Tunis.

Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, expressed the desire not to enter Gaza and Jericho, preferring to remain abroad to carry out other political tasks. He also expressed the desire not to become a council member.

Christopher's Phone Call to 'Arafat Reported

NC2904205194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 29 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who is currently in Israel.

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said the call dealt with the latest developments concerning the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed between the two sides on 13 September.

The agency added that 'Arafat expressed his thanks for U.S. President Bill Clinton's efforts to advance the region's peace process.

'Arafat Gives Polyakov 'Urgent' Letter for Yeltsin

LD2904173094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received [Vladimir] Polyakov, the Russian ambassador in Cairo this morning. He gave him an urgent and important letter for Russian President Boris Yeltsin on developments in the peace process and efforts made to implement the agreement on Declaration of Principles.

Al-Tibi Rejects Worries of 'Vacuum' in Autonomy Areas

TA0105182094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] The PLO has rejected the claims that it is not prepared for an orderly takeover of Gaza and Jericho. Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser, said this evening there is no room for concern and no vacuum will be created in the autonomy areas.

Abu-Sharif: Autonomy Will Mark PLO's End

BR2904143794 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 29 Apr 94 p 11

[Report on interview with PLO adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif by Lorenzo Cremonesi in Gorizia; date not given: "The PLO Must Change Now or It Will Be the End"]

[Text] "My dream is to be able to enter Gaza and Jericho with 'Arafat. We are now very close. The first to arrive will be our policemen, then we, the PLO political leaders. But I have always said: The beginning of true Palestinian autonomy will also mark the end of the PLO as we have known it until now. We have to change jobs, become good, honest administrators, build up our self-governing institutions. The motto will be: Change or die. Very difficult times lie ahead of us. None of us really knows what will be the outcome of the meeting of the leaders returning from the diaspora, on the one hand, with the residents of the occupied territories, on the other."

Bassam Abu-Sharif is venting his feelings. And doing so with a torrent of words, faxes, communications, and telephone calls, impetuously and continuously. We met him a few days ago at Gorizia, during a congress on peace in the Middle East organized by students from the International Sciences Faculty. His phone rang continuously.

Because Abu-Sharif has just completed a long quarantine. Aged 47, and 30 years spent in the Palestinian resistance, last autumn he was seen as a political has-been, finished, fallen into disgrace for ever. He, every journalist's and diplomat's reference point during 'Arafat's long periods of silence, the only person able to say what was going on in the PLO's corridors of power, the former Fedayeen with his face disfigured by a letter bomb sent to him by the Israelis on 25 July 1972 in Beirut, had even had his telephone lines cut. He fends off questions with a dismissive smile.

"You know how things are in the PLO. We never pay the phone bills. Mine in four years was more than 120,000 dollars. Following this they cut my telephone to save money." Then, however, the explanation became more political. "There is an old discussion within the PLO. For years many of them have been calling for greater democracy. But one knows how it is with 'Arafat. He brings us close to him and then distances us according to circumstances and what is convenient at the time. It happened to Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] (who signed the self-government agreement in September), to Faruq Qaddumi (seen as the PLO's foreign minister), and it is not surprising that it should also happen to me. Can you image that, during last spring and summer, all of us remained in the dark with regard to the Oslo agreements until the last minute. Only Abu- 'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] (the PLO's financial manager) was aware of 'Arafat's plans, and knew in depth how the secret negotiations were going with Rabin's people. But today the situation has changed. They have given me back my telephone in Tunis and I have begun work again after two months' absence for an operation to my ear in a Paris hospital."

And to demonstrate his full reinsertion into the Palestine nomenclature, Abu-Sharif did not hesitate to explain the latest developments in the negotiations with "Hamas," the group active in the occupied territories and which rejects compromise with Israel in the name of Islamic fundamentalism.

"One and a half month ago Hamas published a statement in which it said that it was ready to avoid collision with the Palestinian police force set up to manage the self-governing areas. From there on we are seeking to arrive at an internal agreement with them. The question remains open."

And what should one think about the latest signals indicating that Hamas could even be ready to participate in the plans for self-government?

"It is hard to say. It is not improbable. If they accept the authority of our police, then everything is possible. In fact, Hamas is much more pragmatic and articulate than is generally believed. I am also convinced that, once self-government has been achieved and in particular the projects for economic renewal in Gaza and Jericho have been started up, many followers of fundamentalism will then become PLO supporters."

Al-Rajub Denies Agreement With Hamas, Views Talks

TA0105081494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 May 94

[Interview with Jibril al-Rajub, 'Arafat's senior adviser, by political correspondent Udi Segal in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Rajub] Look, in my opinion they have not given up anything [not further specified]. An agreement was reached, we received something, and I am also absolutely sure that peace, coexistence, and security will be achieved for all the civilians living in the territories.

[Segal] What about the agreement between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Al-Rajub] There never was, nor will there ever be such an agreement after we enter the territories. We will abide by everything we signed.

[Segal] Do you see any possibility for cooperation between Hamas and the PLO?

[Al-Rajub] It is not a question of cooperation, but rather of a national interest. I think it is in the national interest of the Palestinian people to convince most of the public to abide by the agreement.

[Segal] What about collaborators?

[Al-Rajub] Look, as you say in Hebrew, it is necessary to stamp out all traitors. I think that those who shed blood and those who crossed the red line will be tried. We are entitled to put these people on trial. It is inconceivable that a man who opened fire and killed people because he collaborated with the occupation forces will be pardoned. This will never happen.

[Segal] What about the others?

[Al-Rajub] Look, we will examine every case individually.

[Segal] What remains to be solved before the comprehensive agreement is signed on Wednesday?

[Al-Rajub] It has been determined that the agreement will be signed on Wednesday, which means that all the other problems will be overcome in the next three days.

Details of Fatah-Hamas Agreement Reported

NC0205084094 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] The following is the six-point agreement concluded yesterday by Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). It was undersigned by "Fatah Hawks" and " 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions." According to the document, the parties agree:

1. To immediately halt all defamation campaigns between Fatah and Hamas, provided the right to freedom of expression and opinion is guaranteed to everyone. A fraternal dialogue between the two organizations will be held to decide measures that will serve our lofty masses everywhere.

2. To renounce differences and bloody conflicts and stop using violence to resolve these differences. The two sides emphasize the need to be committed to constructive dialogue among our people to put an end to the conspiracies being concocted to trap our people in chronic crises and differences.

3. As of the date of this statement, the wanted persons and gunmen of both sides are prohibited from interfering to resolve organizational or family problems. The Islamic and national reconciliation committees are asked to play their role in resolving any problem that may arise. If no solution is reached, the leaders of the political factions are to intervene to put an end to the problems. Fatah and Hamas will work out a suitable mechanism for implementing this resolution.

4. After a long study of our people's economic conditions, it has been decided to stage a one-day strike for every martyr in his own neighborhood only and to declare only one day of mourning in the remaining areas. The intifadah activists are hereby prohibited from throwing stones at cars moving for urgent reasons. The two parties appeal to all factions to reduce overall strikes as much as possible. In cases of emergencies, a strike shall be announced jointly and through a fraternal and constructive understanding.

5. Regarding educational matters, we urge our male and female students to remain in their classes during strikes. All students are urged to deal with any attempt to force them out of their classes.

6. After a careful study of the question of collaborators, Fatah and Hamas have decided to stop killing collaborators between 22 April 1994 and 22 May 1994. During this period, efforts will be made to tackle this phenomenon. We advise the collaborators to cut off their ties with the enemy's intelligence agencies for God's mercy is better for them than the enemy's hell. This month will provide a chance to reconsider and define positions.

Hamas Official Discusses Peace Talks, 'Arafat

NC3004105994 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 Apr 94 pp 26, 27

[Interview with Mustafa al-Liddawi, Hamas representative in Lebanon, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHIRA'] There were reports recently about the existence of an Islamic-Islamic dialogue in which you were involved. What is the dialogue about and has it had any results?

[Al-Liddawi] The Palestinian problem is going through its most critical phases at present. Years of suffering and sacrifice have been forgotten and ignored. All our Palestinian people's rights have also been bypassed and ignored and there is no more talk about the Palestinian people's dream of returning to the homeland and establishing their independent state on all the national soil.

Thus, in view of the gravity of the plot and the great sacrifices already made, we had to stand firm against the squandering of our rights and those squandering them in order to protect our people's right to their territories and homeland. The Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] was eager to consult all partners in the battle with a common destiny in order to discuss how to frustrate this genocidal plot. The dialogue was not limited to a specific party but to all those who are loyal to this cause. We were prompted in this by the accelerated squandering of our rights and our belief that all must be involved in a coordinated and organized move to foil this plot.

[AL-SHIRA'] With which Arab Islamic forces is Hamas meeting? How do you justify the methods followed, specifically those in Egypt and Algeria?

[Al-Liddawi] As written in its charter, Hamas believes that Palestine is an Islamic awqaf land, that is, it belongs to all Muslims everywhere, regardless of their race, and to all Muslim generations throughout the ages. Hence the burden of liberating it falls on the shoulders of all Muslims.

On this premise, Hamas believes that it should have solid ties with all the Islamic and Arab parties whose objective is to liberate Palestine and restore the Palestinian people's legitimate and historic rights. Hamas believes that all the Arab and Islamic efforts must unite to liberate Palestine. Hamas needs the efforts of everyone who is faithful to the Palestinian people and their cause, even if we have differences with some of them over ideas and ideologies.

As for what is happening in Egypt and Algeria, the Hamas policy is not to interfere in the affairs of others; this is based on our desire to maintain the uniqueness of the our Palestinian cause. Hence, we do not interfere. But at the same time, we call on all the parties to refer their differences to the Koran and the true Islamic path. We also call on all of them to begin a dialogue in order to end all the illusions and deceptions that the enemies of this Islamic nation are trying to plant in our midst to create more divisions and differences.

[AL-SHIRA'] You stand accused of impeding the work of the Palestinian forces' alliance by rejecting the election of an alternative leadership to 'Arafat and because of your bad relations with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] which reached their nadir when you killed one of its military officials, "Yusuf Abu-Lafi," in the occupied territories?

[Al-Liddawi] Everyone knows that Hamas was the first to come up with the idea of bringing the 10 Palestinian groups and other forces that reject the settlement process together for the sake of joint Palestinian action. We are serious about heightening the Palestinian groups' action and developing their methods of political confrontation in order to abort 'Arafat's defeatist policy. We made several proposals when we started the move for a framework of a Palestinian forces' alliance. We presented serious ideas in several working papers but we met many selfish and subjective obstacles from some groups. The delay in reaching agreement on the alliance was probably caused by these groups' study of the plan and not Hamas.

Regarding the issue of electing a leadership that would act as an alternative to 'Arafat, we believe that we must first have more jihad work to abort the liquidationist plan while simultaneously embarking on a gradual rebuilding of the PLO institutions. We agreed on this with the other groups. I do not think that we disagree with those who say that the Palestinian people need a wise leadership that will save it from this gloomy fate, but at the same time we want to rebuild the PLO institutions gradually rather than leap into the unknown.

The reports that the reason Hamas has no desire to elect an alternative leadership to 'Arafat and is opposed to holding elections outside the occupied homeland for that purpose is because it fears that it will not get very much support outside the territories are not true. Hamas has no fear about this because its increasing influence inside Palestine is the same as its influence outside. Though it does not have an organizational framework abroad, Hamas is still capable of having an effective popular and organizational presence. This only requires a clear organizational decision to publicize all Hamas members and supporters abroad and overnight we would become the strongest Palestinian organization inside and outside the territories. But we reject partial elections. We are seeking comprehensive Palestinian elections for the Palestinian people, wherever they are. We do not want flashy and formal elections that do not bring the best for our people or which are held through popular conferences where the conferees are not allowed any freedom of opinion.

As for our differences with the DFLP, we were deeply pained by what happened and our pain increased when the DFLP opted to discuss some of the problems between the two sides in the media and in front of those who gloat over these differences. I do not want to rehash the problem's details, for we jointly put an end to it. But I hope that the brothers in the DFLP will embrace the principle of coordination with us and that none of us will resort to publicizing our differences in the media. The DFLP will find that Hamas is ready to deal with it on the basis of coordination and respect for each other, especially as we are both going through such difficult times.

[AL-SHIRA'] You are part of an alliance of Palestinian groups. However, the narrow and self-promoting tactics you followed when election lists were being prepared for the formation of Palestinian institutions inside the homeland led to wins by 'Arafat's supporters. Are you going to continue these tactics? And, how will this affect other Palestinian groups opposed to 'Arafat?

[Al-Liddawi] This is completely untrue. Hamas is fully committed to furthering its alliance in the elections in all syndicates and electoral constituencies. We have already won elections in many institutions in alliance with other Palestinian groups. Hamas has never followed any self-defeating self-serving tactics. Maybe others did, but not us. Hamas has long suffered from such practices and sees them as detrimental. There are many indications of this. In an effort to reinforce our alliance, we call on our brothers in other Palestinian groups to coordinate openly with us in all matters concerning elections. This will strengthen us and help us defeat 'Arafat, his supporters, and their capitulationist line.

We and other Palestinian groups have agreed to act as equals within the framework of our alliance. We are all politically equal. There is no difference between one group and another. No group is entitled to veto another. Everyone has the right to express their own views. Each of us has its own vote, and decisions are made on the basis of consensus, not majority.

As for the elections, Hamas is ready to merge its lineup with like-minded Palestinian groups in any location. Every group will get as many seats as justified by its representation and any prior agreement. But Hamas is the only active group in several areas, and it is only logical that we should run on our own in such cases.

[AL-SHIRA'] Your killing of Abu-Lafi could trigger a Kabul-style conflict in the occupied territories. The elements of strife are there. What do you plan to do to avoid this scenario?

[Al-Liddawi] As I said in my last answer, we seek closer coordination everywhere. We want to cooperate seriously with other groups in order to serve the Palestinian cause. We want to harass the enemy with more painful operations. We want to contain any problem, however big, by referring it to the joint coordination committee. We should not pay attention to press reports and allegations, for these normally throw fuel on the fire.

With more understanding, coordination, and working together, we will avoid becoming a second Kabul. We have to remember that the enemy is doing everything it can to foment sedition and trigger infighting among us.

[AL-SHIRA'] There were attempts to initiate a dialogue between you and 'Arafat after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. How far have these attempts gone?

[Al-Liddawi] There will be no dialogue with 'Arafat until he withdraws from the settlement process and renounces the Oslo agreement. There have been no dialogues with 'Arafat following his recent involvement in the quagmire of the Oslo agreement.

But at the same time, we might meet with Fatah members inside the occupied homeland to solve local problems and avert any further aggravation of the existing bad situation between the two movements. Such meetings would also help prevent the struggle from dissolving into infighting. We must make every possible effort to insure that such infighting never occurs.

[AL-SHIRA'] You have been equated with the Zionist hardliners who reject the negotiations. Could you respond to this?

[Al-Liddawi] Where and how are we equal? We are endeavoring to regain our usurped rights in Palestine, all of Palestine, and we are using all legal and legitimate methods in our struggle against our enemy for the sake of recovering our legal rights.

As for the Zionist hardliners, they are unjustly trying to keep Palestine as their homeland. They are using all unlawful means to achieve their designs and are being assisted in this by the Zionist government.

Finally, we reject the existing negotiations, which are bound to forfeit all the Palestinian people's rights and waste all their sacrifices from the long years of suffering and persecution. God willing, we will continue our jihad and our work until the occupation is driven from our land.

Shaykh Yasin Rejects Setting Terms for Release

TA0205101694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 May 94 p 12

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] "In principle, I support a just and lasting peace that will guarantee the Palestinian people their rights." This statement was made over the weekend by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the founder of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The shaykh was speaking to his attorney, 'Abd-al-Malik Dahamshah, in response to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' assertion that Yasin could be released if he were to express support for the peace process. Yasin said he rejects any conditions being set for his release; however, he supports a just peace process.

Tomorrow will mark five years since the disappearance of soldier Ilan Sa'adon. In reaction to statements made by the Sa'adon family, Shaykh Yasin asserted this week that he does not know the whereabouts of the soldier's body. The shaykh claimed he only learned of the murder after the fact.

Hamas: No End to Jihad Despite Shaykh's Release

TA0105072994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Hamas says it will not halt its Jihad against Israel in exchange for the release of its leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Hamas is awaiting Israel's decision to release Palestinian prisoners, including Hamas prisoners. Hamas functionaries talk about accepting the Israel-PLO agreement, while its military arm insists on continuing the struggle against the occupation. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

On the eve of the signature of the agreement with the PLO, and after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has already withdrawn approximately 90 percent of its forces from the Gaza Strip and redeployed in the Qatif Bloc, the question remains, what will Hamas do? Over the last few months Israel has tried—via IDF officers—to open a sort of dialogue with Hamas. Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, and Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, have held several meetings with some Hamas leaders in the area. The two tried to come to an understanding of Hamas, attempted to soften it, occasionally resorting to threats—but without much success.

Yesterday Hamas disgustedly rejected Foreign Minister Peres' proposal to release Hamas leader Ahmad Yasin in exchange for a call on his people to halt the acts of terrorism against Israel. Sources in the Gaza Strip say that apparently Israel does not realize that Yasin can no longer issue such an order to 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' military arm. They claim that there is a growing rift within Hamas between some of the spiritual leaders and functionaries, and the fighters in the field, after agreement between the PLO and Hamas was signed. This agreement, which calls for cooperation in many areas, was signed by Rashid Abu-Shabak, leader of the Fatah Hawks, and Mahmud al-Zahhar, who is considered to be the leader of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam. Sources in Gaza say that since this agreement was signed, differences of opinion have surfaced between the fighters in the field and the organization's spiritual leadership, with the former complaining that Fatah is removing them from work places, such as the busy works which Israel is financing in the territories.

Despite all the denials coming from the direction of Fatah, and the calming statements issued by Musa Abu-Marzuq, a Hamas functionary residing in Jordan, it transpires that the limited agreement between the PLO and Hamas will not prevent attacks in Israel and in the territories, excluding the areas of Gaza and Jericho which will be under the PLO's control.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Yemen Events

LD3004203694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a statement made by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, the Algerian authorities urge the parties to the conflict in Yemen to stop bloodshed in order to establish domestic peace and stick to dialogue to resolve the dispute and preserve the unity of Yemen. The statement further says that Algeria affirms its preparedness to continue mediation efforts whether at national level or in the framework of the mission entrusted to it by the last Arab Maghreb Union summit. The statement also says that Algeria regrets this internecine fighting and is following with concern the tragic events.

Socialist Forces Front Leader Calls For Dialogue

PM2904152694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 10

[Interview with Hocine Ait-Ahmed, leader of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front, by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish "somewhere in Switzerland"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Darwish] Hocine Ait-Ahmed, a few days ago you called for a serious and comprehensive dialogue. It was not your first appeal. Do you believe developing conditions can still make a solution based on dialogue a success?

[Ait-Ahmed] I believe in Algeria. I do not believe in the inevitability of a national collapse. We have over the past two years been calling for holding a sovereign national conference.

[Al-Darwish] Is that what you call a constituent assembly?

[Ait-Ahmed] No...a sovereign national conference with the powers to set up institutions and structures for the transitional phase. This conference should comprise the regime, that is the Army, and the political formations representing Algerian society.

[Al-Darwish] Including the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Ait-Ahmed] Of course including the FIS. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] Am I to understand that you believe the security option has failed completely?

[Ait-Ahmed] Completely. I have from the outset said that this option is doomed to failure. I spoke openly about this with Major General Khaled Nezzar following the assassination of President Boudiaf. We stressed the need to open a direct dialogue with all parties. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] But are you calling for dialogue with the FIS or with the armed organizations?

[Ait-Ahmed] Of course with the FIS. However, we believe that the FIS' commitment to and entry into the dialogue process is bound to influence these organizations. But nothing prevents us from addressing these organizations and their members as Algerians who have adopted a means of expression of which we do not approve and which we reject in the political action domain for the sake of sparing the blood of Algerian men and women.

[Al-Darwish] Did you follow the reports of contacts between the regime and FIS leaders? Did these contacts include you?

[Ait-Ahmed] Of course, we followed these reports with interest, through the press, rumors, and private channels as well. But we were not consulted, nor did anyone contact us. Nevertheless, we bless these initiatives and hope they are serious. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] What about the message you sent to President Zeroual on 9 April?

[Ait-Ahmed] Proceeding from my personal and partisan responsibility, I wanted to renew our call for dialogue and to express to the new president our fear of moving toward a worse security situation, especially after the emergence of serious maneuvers and calls in recent weeks.

[Al-Darwish] I believe that you are referring to the calls for distributing arms and forming militias. Do you believe that the regime has something to do with these calls?

[Ait-Ahmed] The call by some ministers from Redha Malek's government for calling up the reserve and civil defense elements is nothing but a framework for what is called in other cases "militias." In the Algerian political reality it means moving a step closer to all-out civil war. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Says Foreign Banks Welcome

LD2904185994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Algeria is prepared to enter into partnership with any foreign bank that wishes to work in Algeria, on the basis of competition in the banking system which will come into force soon. This was stated by Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour in a televised interview on the recent agreement between Algeria and the IMF. The minister said that Algerian banking, as a vital element in the stage of economic stability, is now subject to restructuring much the same as other institutions.

Egypt

Mubarak on Mideast Peace Process, Economics, Arab Ties

NC0205092994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt made tremendous efforts to help achieve the signing next Wednesday of an agreement on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. It helped the two sides overcome most of the obstacles that hindered the agreement, he said.

In a statement appearing today in MAYU, which speaks for the National Democratic Party, Mubarak said that despite obstacles the Golan Heights will soon return to Syria. He noted that Syria and Israel are eager for peace and that Egypt is helping the two sides surmount the difficulties so that an agreement can be reached.

On the situation in Yemen, Mubarak addressed a new appeal to the parties to the conflict in fraternal Yemen to demonstrate self-restraint and prevent bloodshed for the sake of the Yemeni people's future.

On the results of his recent visits to China and some Arab countries, Mubarak stressed that the trip to China was extremely fruitful and produced positive results. He noted the need for continued cooperation between Egypt and China.

President Mubarak emphasized the need for boosting Egyptian-Chinese relations in all fields because China, with its formidable capabilities, will play a more influential role in international politics.

He explained that China agreed to reschedule Egypt's debts. He said the move, a privilege not given to any other country, reflects an appreciation of Egypt's status and role on the international scene.

Mubarak said that he had rejected an idea to delay his visit to China. I insisted on going to Beijing on the scheduled date, although I postponed my visit to Japan because of that country's government crisis, he said.

On his visits to a number of Arab countries before and after his trip to China, Mubarak said: I am always eager for coordination and an exchange of views with Arab leaders on all issues of concern to the region and on international issues of mutual concern.

He added: I am eager to meet with Arab leaders whenever I have a chance. During my recent tour, I met with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. I have the closet ties with the Sultan and the Omani people. Regarding the United Arab Emirates, its positions toward us are honorable. Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan is a dear friend, and when we meet we discuss all issues frankly and in a brotherly spirit and we always arrive at identical viewpoints.

On relations with Bahrain, President Mubarak said the Bahraini people are really kind and proud of their relations with Egypt. My meetings with Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah are always characterized by cordiality and understanding, he said.

President Mubarak added: I was willing to conclude my trip with a visit to fraternal Saudi Arabia to meet with my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Crown Prince 'Abdallah, and the leaders of the kingdom. I proceeded from eagerness to coordinate and exchange views with them on all issues of concern to the region and the world. Saudi Arabia is a big, influential Gulf state and agreements between us reflect positively on our fraternal peoples.

On the implementation of the economic reform program in Egypt, Mubarak told MAYU that the world economy is now unstable, causing higher prices. Egypt is affected by this, but we are concerned that people with low income not be hurt, he said.

He added: In the reform plan we are fully committed to certain principles. We do not approve any new loans except when there is an urgent need and we are making strenuous efforts to write off half of our foreign debts.

Concluding his statement, President Mubarak renewed his call for investors to establish their projects in Egypt on lands where the state has provided facilities. Projects costing about 10 million pounds do not need permission from any quarter, he said.

President Mubarak explained that a good economy supports the climate of freedom and democracy. We are interested in reforming Egypt's economy and establishing it on firm and strong bases so that freedom and democracy will flourish, he said.

Musa on Preparations for Israel-PLO Agreement

NC2904164294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt will invite a number of foreign ministers to attend the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signing ceremony, which is scheduled to take place next Wednesday [4 May] morning in Cairo. He said that the foreign ministers of the states that participated in the Madrid Peace Conference and the states taking part in the negotiations will attend this ceremony. The ceremony will also be attended by representatives of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the peace conference.

Musa said that the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese tracks are receiving the same attention from Egypt. He said that Egypt has been working to bring the negotiations on Gaza and Jericho to a successful conclusion and, at the same time, to further the negotiations on the other tracks.

A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry today, attended by experts from Egypt, the United States, Russia, Israel, and Palestine to discuss the preparations for the signing ceremony. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Phones King Fahd on Peace Process

NC2904173494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today made a telephone call to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, servant of the two holy shrines. The conversation dealt with the latest developments in the negotiations between the parties to the peace process in the Middle East. The two leaders also discussed the developments regarding a number of Arab issues.

Russia To Offer Assistance to 'Old Allies'

NC3004145694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Dispatch by Dr. Sayyid 'Ali from Beirut; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Viktor Gogitidze, the official in charge of Middle Eastern affairs at the Russian Foreign Ministry, recently said: Our history of relations in the Middle East cannot be erased. We are determined to establish even-handed and balanced relations in the Middle East.

It is clear that Russia is on its way to lending a helping hand to its old allies. In a move calculated to express its traditional support for the Palestinians while keeping other lines of communication open, Russia played host to Israeli officials and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The Russians want to resume their superpower role in the Middle East but have clearly abandoned the old ways of Soviet diplomacy.

In a recent visit to Damascus, Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, signed a military cooperation agreement. The agreement is expected to give a strong boost to Syrian-Russian relations and reverse the lassitude that has characterized these relations since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Emerging from a three-hour meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Soskovets expressed great satisfaction with the visit. He and Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas had just signed an agreement on military cooperation. Gen. Talas praised the agreement, without disclosing its contents, describing it as a step in the right direction. The Syrian defense minister expressed hope that ties between Damascus and Moscow would return to the level experienced before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Mubarak Receives Call From Yemen's al-Bid

NC2904192294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this evening from Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, during which he explained to the president the worsening situation in fraternal Yemen. President Mubarak requested that the Yemeni parties end the fighting, solve the crisis through mutual understanding, and respond to the Egyptian and Arab peace efforts to safeguard the supreme interests of the fraternal Yemeni people.

Meanwhile, southern Yemeni sources have stated that fighting broke out again today between the southern and northern military units, and extended to southern areas of Yemen. The sources added that the current fighting is taking place in the southern provinces of Abyan and Lahij.

The Yemeni Defense Ministry in Sanaa said in a statement today that the southern forces deployed in the Dhamar base, south of Sanaa, have left their camps and have taken up positions in the surrounding areas on the orders of the leaders of the Socialist Party to aggravate the military situation in Yemen.

Informed sources in Sanaa said that an extensive search is under way in the Amran camp area, north of Sanaa, which witnessed heavy fighting last Wednesday and Thursday [27-28 April], for Colonel Sayf al-Baqari, commander of the southern 3rd Armored brigade, to bring him to court martial for issuing the orders to start the fighting in the area.

Mubarak Urges Restraint Between Yemeni Leaders

NC3004182094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has addressed an appeal to Yemeni leaders to stop the fighting among the Yemeni Armed Forces.

In his appeal, the president warned that the persistence of the armed clashes will further aggravate the situation and inflict grave harm on fraternal Yemen's present and future.

President Mubarak called on the Yemeni leaders to return the northern and southern armed troops to their positions to stop the ongoing fighting that has killed and wounded hundreds in the past few days.

The president called on President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in his capacity as president and higher commander of the Armed Forces, to intervene with his wisdom to stop the fighting in the northern part of the country and to organize matters in a manner that averts friction and provocation and preserves Yemen's unity and the higher interests of its sons.

Concluding his appeal, President Mubarak appealed to the Yemeni leaders to restrain themselves, engage in a rational and logical dialogue, and respond to efforts to preserve Yemen's wellbeing and the unity of its sons.

Rwandan Trade Minister Continues Visit

Confers With Mubarak

NC3004143894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Justin Mugenzi, Rwanda's minister of trade, industry, and handicrafts and president of the Liberal Party. Minister Mugenzi briefed President Mubarak on developments in his country. President Mubarak, who is the current OAU chairman, is exerting efforts to resolve the current crisis in Rwanda. The Rwandan ambassador to Cairo attended the meeting.

Mubarak Asks Greater UN Role

NC0105062394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman, has asked the United Nations to maintain and bolster its role in Rwanda.

A Foreign Ministry statement said tonight that President Mubarak is currently holding contacts with the UN secretary general on the deteriorating situation in Rwanda and the role of the international organization in this regard.

The statement said contacts with OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim are now under way, with President Mubarak demanding that the central apparatus for resolving African conflicts play an effective role in stopping the bloody confrontation between the government and opposition in Rwanda.

President Mubarak also requested that all measures be taken to stop the deterioration in Rwanda.

The statement said summit-level contacts between the OAU chairman and a number of African presidents will be held as part of efforts to contain the deteriorating situation in Rwanda.

Delegation to Arms Limitation Talks Leaves

NC0105101294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation led by Major General 'Ismat 'Izz left Cairo for Doha today to attend the meetings of the arms limitation committee stemming from the Madrid peace conference which will be held between 3 and 5 May.

The delegation includes experts from the Defense and Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Delivers Labor Day Speech

NC2804192594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0925 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak marking Labor Day at the General Organization for Mobilization and Statistics in Madinat al-Nasr, Cairo, on 28 April—live]

[Text] [Mubarak] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Many happy returns of the day.

[Unidentified member of audience] Many happy returns of the day, Mr. President. May God preserve you for us and for Egypt and may He protect Egypt and Mubarak.

[Mubarak] Thank you. Before I begin my speech on the occasion marking Labor Day, I would like to address thanks, greetings, and appreciation to the brother ministers who served a long time in the government [applause] and performed very difficult tasks when there have been countless problems. Among these I would like to mention Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, who served for 16 years. [applause] No one can forget what he did for new communities, worn-out utilities, housing and housing units. His work is evident to all. Engineer Jamal al-Sayyid was a minister of war production. He did his job. Engineer 'Isam Radi and Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab was industry minister when all our factories, particularly in the public sector, needed development, renovation, and replacement. He put in great efforts in this connection. Mr. Fu'ad Sultan, [former] minister of tourism and civil aviation [applause] made huge efforts, which we all know. Dr. Raghib Duwaydar in the field of health and the development of hospitals and Mr. 'Adil 'Izz and his efforts in scientific research, and Mr. Yusri 'Ali Mustafa, who was economy minister at a time when economic reform was being studied and launched. That was a great effort. Dr. Ahmad Salamah was minister of local government and the People's Assembly's affairs. Mr. 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haqq was minister of labor and manpower for seven years. Mr. Maurice Makramallah worked as minister of international cooperation. I express my personal appreciation to the ministers, who worked for long periods and withstood harsh criticism, inquiries, and questions. They are relieved of these things now. [audience applauds, laughs, and chants slogans]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

[Unidentified member of audience] Long live Mubarak, the man of peace, the leader of the Arab nation and Africa.

[Mubarak] And Europe too. [audience laughs, applauds]

[Unidentified member of audience] Mr. President, this is an expression of your gratitude as a loyal Egyptian. You appreciated the efforts of those who served and gave to Egypt. This is an expression of your gratitude. We want another expression of appreciation for the workers who have been pensioned off and have yet to cash their pension checks. We want a sign of gratitude from Your Excellency to these people who retired in 1993 from their jobs in press institutions, particularly the Dar al-Hilal publishing house. I hope Your Excellency....

[Mubarak, interrupting] These issues should be discussed with the government and not during a public speech. Thank you. [applause]

[Unidentified member of audience] I approached all officials and they did nothing.

[Mubarak] Press institutions have their own system. I do not think pensions were late without a specific reason.

[Unidentified member of audience] They did not pay their contributions to the Press Association.

[Mubarak] If they did not pay, we can look into the matter. If the institutions have not paid, they are independent institutions.

[Unidentified member of audience] They deducted the money from us, Mr. President. The deduction is obligatory. [words indistinct] meet with Your Excellency.

[Mubarak, laughing] You are welcome. Brother citizens, Egypt's loyal workers and sons; when man fairly views the major accomplishments that have a tangible impact all over Egypt, he can only say to the workers of Egypt on their day: Thank you for all you have offered to the homeland. Thank you for the generous sweat that sowed the seeds for a brighter future on Egyptian soil and a here-and-now rich with thousands of new projects. These projects enhance the homeland's production capability, provide more job opportunities to the homeland's sons, and revive Egypt's aspirations for a better future.

Through unparalleled persistent efforts over two successive development plans, Egyptian workers managed to execute a huge investment program that paved the way for a third plan, now under way, representing a staging point in the society's life. Completion of this plan means upgrading the living standard of the Egyptian citizen, promoting social solidarity, confronting unemployment problems properly, and achieving a fair regional balance in developing Egyptian governorates.

I express my great pride in the Egyptian workers who achieved this and built edifices of work and production for Egypt and who set an example in their awareness of the need for the country to be stable so that it can progress. They strongly supported the economic reform programs in the production institutions and maintained the unity of their struggle, clinging to patriotism that protected their ranks from sedition and division.

The Egyptian workers maintained their struggle's independence and uniqueness so that their struggle can remain aloof from parties and affiliations with ideologies and doctrines and can incorporate all Egyptian workers in one nationalistic fold. The Egyptian workers preserved their movement's unity and independence when they rejected doctrinal interference in their trade unions and when they refused to let these national institutions be a stage for party or ideological conflict that would break the workers' unity and divert their struggle from this great nation's values. [applause]

The Egyptian workers abandoned the ideas of dispute and conflict despite efforts by numerous political forces that tried to exploit the workers' struggle to foment class conflict. They also abandoned the ideas of darkness and destruction that seek to wreck the nation's strength.

The Egyptian workers' will has triumphed and their trade organizations supported this nation's values which advocate construction and cooperation, reject conflicts and disputes, and call for a balance between rights and interests.

May God keep for Egypt its loyal workers who preserved Egypt's security and stability so that Egypt kept them in its heart and mind. [applause]

Brother workers, your anniversary is a day of hope and Egyptian nationalism. I have hoped and still hope that Egyptian nationalism will triumph over the elements of destruction and division. I also hope that the nation's interests will be the right criterion by which we gauge the legitimacy of actions and sincerity of positions. The aim is to achieve a sound national reconciliation that charts the boundaries between the right to variance in views, a legitimate right guaranteed by the democratic regime, and the calls of incitement, conspiracy, and violence that tamper with the country's security and jeopardize its social peace.

I do not see this as a difficult or impossible task. Despite the differences that might emerge from varying political views on the stage of national action, there are still numerous common factors that help reach a common understanding of the higher national interest and make national reconciliation possible.

We might disagree on which should come first on the list of national priorities, economic or political reform. But we cannot disagree on the need to incriminate violence, killing, and sabotage out of respect for legitimacy and the supremacy of the law. We might disagree on how big a role the state can play in steering the national economy, but we cannot disagree on the state's duty to take care of the less capable classes out of eagerness to preserve the homeland's unity and its social justice. [applause]

We might disagree on some of the laws that organize our political life, but we cannot disagree on Egypt's need under the prevailing conditions for a cohesive society whose powers are intertwined in a just framework that preserves the balance among the interests of the various categories of the people and opens the way for initiatives by various individuals.

Thus, brothers and sisters, I made the call for a national dialogue involving all the democratic powers and political institutions that respect legitimacy and the law. The objective of the dialogue has never been national reconciliation, because the state is at odds only with those who are outside legitimacy and the law. The supporters of violence among the terrorist groups have made threatening the security of the homeland and citizens and damaging the people's interests their first priority in implementing foreign plots that aim to weaken Egypt and impede its progress. These groups are not a party to the dialogue and not the object of national reconciliation. There can be no dialogue with killers and no reconciliation with murderers. Evil has controlled these criminals so strongly that they started to terrorize society, kill innocent people, and commit despicable crimes that shame every Muslim who is zealous for his religion, homeland, and society.

Dialogue is not meant to open back doors for illegitimate powers that mix religion with political activity to put themselves above the law, antagonize and fight the multiparty system until they monopolize the national arena, and pounce on the chance to rule, kill democracy, and let one view and one line of thinking do away with every thinker who dares oppose or discuss.

Dialogue has always meant to fulfill one last prerequisite of democracy. Democracy does not mean a chaos of views that threaten the homeland's interest or destroy its unity and power. Democracy does not mean confusing the dividing lines between legitimate powers that operate within a democratic system that make it imperative to respect the law and other illegitimate powers that advocate violence and destroy the society's peacefulness and stability. Authentic democracy can only fulfill its prerequisites when the legitimate political powers seek a clear-cut agreement that determines the homeland's genuine interests and priorities, provides the guarantees that safeguard the democratic action march against those who want to pounce on it, and creates favorable conditions in the society for a degree of national consensus that guarantees the balance of the political march and distinguishes between the legal and illegal to avoid confusion of stands, waste of the homeland's interests, and turning democracy into a kind of anarchy that paralyses the society's ability to face up to challenges. This will never be.

Brothers and sisters, I hope national dialogue will be candid and serious and that it will be preoccupied with the basic concerns of the homeland. I hope it will rise above narrow and limited individual party interests. I hope this dialogue will be based on a realistic and objective vision that interprets Egypt's priorities accurately, without ignoring the existing reality and the data provided over the course of history, floating in a vacuum with no consideration for the homeland's resources and capabilities, or risking the homeland's peace and stability to indulge empty slogans or imitate erroneous stances that practical experience has proved very serious for the national destiny.

Let us all take into account that democracy is not a single pattern or sacred preconception that can be applied here in exactly the same way that they are applied there. Every country has its unique conditions, reality, and course of development. Our sublime duty is to be honest with ourselves and to have a proper understanding in order to take the right course. We are carrying a heavy burden that leaves no room for adventures and we are still the target of many powers that do not want stability or progress in Egypt.

We do not avoid any commitment or promise nor do we back down on any decision. Democracy is our way of life and our irreversible course. However, we should draw attention to the need to learn from past lessons, ours and others' as well. We have to calculate our future steps correctly as we seek to enhance our democratic approach so that Egyptian society can continue to be a cohesive entity with interlinked powers. There can be no democracy, stability, or progress in a society where strife and discord prevail.

Brothers and sisters; I have committed myself to the service of this homeland, eschewing personal interests and ambitions. I fear no one but almighty God. I listen to no voice but my conscience and respond to no call but that of the homeland. I am well aware of the risks involved in taking steps without making calculations, a thing that can, God forbid, cause a setback, particularly as we are going through a stage of considerable change. This might be the most serious stages of transformation in all Egyptian history. The world provides numerous examples that prove that my fears are real.

Since taking on this responsibility, I have promised myself to put the homeland's interests above every other consideration. The responsibility is great and the burden heavy; they leave no room for risking the destiny of a nation or the future of a homeland just to satisfy empty, resonant slogans; they withstand no miscalculation to make rapid gains that will soon be carried away by the wind.

My major concern has always been to lead the ship to a safe haven under harsh and complex conditions that resulted from entangled local and foreign factors that aggravated problems. Under these harsh conditions, which you all know, Egypt's greatest and most crucial transformations over history have occurred. Democratic practice in Egypt was expanded to unprecedented bounds; rightist, leftist, and moderate political powers competed in the arena under the umbrella of a free press and independent judiciary. The Egyptian economy broke free of the fetters that restricted its ability and hampered the rejuvenation of its powers, and even limited its activity to state efforts. Closed doors barred the contribution to development efforts by the nation's capital and local and foreign investors' capital.

Brothers and sisters, we have shouldered and continue to shoulder some difficulties imposed on us by the burdens of this stage of changes and reforms. But the ship has passed the danger point and reached the shore of safety, hoisting the banner of a homeland that has restored its ability to achieve a comprehensive development that grows annually to raise the living standards of its sons, provide more job opportunities, and ensure stability and security for everyone. Our great people have succeeded in achieving in very few years a miracle that has changed the situation of Egypt, which was on the verge of collapse. It has now become attractive to investments that are increasingly flowing in year after year. The country's revenues from its national production are increasing in quantity and quality and this underlines the Egyptian economy's ability to achieve its desired takeoff.

The destructive activity that the terrorist groups continue to practice and this disloyalty to and disavowal of God and this homeland will neither change this truth nor eclipse it. Society as a whole has discovered the false and spurious allegations that these groups attribute to religion. It is evident to everyone that they are mere straying and unfair remnants who have no qualms about committing atrocious crimes and who let themselves do what God has forbidden. They are not deterred by religion or morals and are controlled by corrupt heads that have made terrorism a trade and an profession and corrupted the morals of a perplexed youth who were seeking the right path but were led astray, were seeking an honest living but were led to illegal seizure of money, and were seeking the true path but whose eyes were blinded and whose hearts ceased to feel.

Should such people be allowed to speak from the pulpits of mosques, to teach believers and the faithful in Egypt lessons in religion? Should a small group of hypocrites and deceivers be allowed to defend this criminality or present false excuses for their vile crimes? God Almighty is right when He says in his holy book: Who can be more wicked than one who inventeth a lie against God?

Brothers and sisters, the time has come to place this phenomenon in its true perspective without any exaggeration, oversight, or underestimation, because this objective assessment that is committed to the facts is a necessary condition for the success of the confrontation. I say very clearly that there is nothing today in this phenomenon that causes fear about the homeland's future as long as the entire people stands united and massed in one rank and with full vigilance in confronting the straying and straggling groups that lack any popular support. The people condemn their actions and vile crimes after their role in damaging the homeland's interests have been exposed. Their role is to serve vile schemes that aim to impede Egypt's takeoff and abort the opportunities for progress. The noble Egyptian people will not allow these straggling and hireling remnants to dash its efforts and hopes of establishing a national and free society whose ability to satisfy the needs and ambitions of its sons increase daily.

I am confident that this phenomenon is temporary and will end. I don't say this from a vacuum but on the basis of the great Egyptian people's big successes. These people are confronting sedition after realizing its dangers and sins. Their vigilant vanguards and their establishments are standing against the danger, cautioning, warning, and enlightening. The concerned state authorities are hunting down the heads of the plot and aborting their schemes decisively and resolutely. Thanks to the people's support and vigilance, they have maintained the initiative in confronting these criminal individuals after the false masks behind which they were hiding have fallen.

The security forces will not stay idle or be lax in their confrontation with this evil affliction regardless of the seriousness of the challenges and dangers. The march of Egyptian patriotism will continue to march forward, declaring: We will save you, Egypt. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: We could have rooted out these groups and cut short the confrontation time. However, we are anxious for the state's measures to remain in a correct framework respecting the rules of democracy and adhering to the supremacy of law and the Constitution.

Recently Egyptian security forces have valiantly and strongly confronted this terrorist activity while firmly adhering to legality and law. The initiative now is in the hands of the security forces, which have penetrated this phenomenon in all its domestic and external dimensions by monitoring its contacts with its agents abroad and discovering the greatest part of its networks, hideouts, and plans.

I salute the policemen [applause] who have made honest and indefatigable efforts to safeguard the security of the homeland and citizens and who through the sacrifices of their innocent martyrs have been able to contain and abort this danger. I salute the great Egyptian people who have given the greatest help to the police forces, who have not missed a chance to expressing their anger and their condemnation of these groups, who have offered several innocent martyrs, fallen victim to treacherous crimes. I salute Egypt's intellectuals, writers, and artists who have not lost confidence in the homeland's ability to contain the danger and uproot it. They have not been afraid to perform their national task of revealing the ignorance of these groups and exposing their aims and motives. I call upon these misled groups to return to their conscience and to repent before it is too late. What is right is clear and what is wrong is also clear. Destruction and construction cannot go hand in hand. The homeland expects its sons to be a support for it and not wage war on it.

Brothers and sisters, I know as well as you do that the success of the Egyptian security services has offended some hypocritical groups, who have undertaken a frenzied bogus campaign to question every official and every accomplishment. They arouse animosity and hatred and spread despair. We have been careful to deal with them on the basis of the supremacy of the law without restricting their views, because we know that they are peddling a rotten commodity to an intelligent people who know how hypocritical they are. We are chasing out corruption everywhere, because honest rule is a noble commitment and we are not slighting one iota of this commitment.

But we judge no one on the basis of mere suspicion and heed no vindictive defamations. We leave the whole matter to a clean judiciary that examines accusations, thoroughly studies incidents, and issues independent verdicts influenced by no one or nothing except its own conscience and the law. The ruling process in Egypt has matured; people's fates are no longer determined on the basis of false rumors promoted by some people out of spite and personal grudges. The judiciary has assumed such a prominent status that it has become impossible for any official, no matter how high his position might be, to interfere in its judgements. [applause]

Old ways of thinking that viewed everyone who had some capital as a suspicious opportunist, thus forcing him to withhold his money from investments that benefit the people and society, have changed. Those who fabricate lies about corruption in Egypt deliberately overlook the state's role in uncovering corruption and rooting out criminals. Despite their exaggerated commotion, they fail to provide a shred of evidence to prove that the state has been slack in pursuing a single case of corruption. Corruption in Egypt is still limited to individual cases. No society in the world, no matter how perfect it might be, is free from such corruption. Corruption has not and will not develop into a problem in Egypt, as is the case was in many states which we all know. In these states, big groups have been involved in activities that cast doubt on the purity and cleanliness of the entire regime and threaten cohesion among state institutions.

This absolutely does not mean that we take corruption lightly or ignore it. We are determined to track it down and strike at it with the weapon of the law. The law is the judge and the decisive factor that we have all accepted in facing up to any illegal activity.

Free speech carries a responsibility and a trust. Responsible speech is a torch that lights the road for society and a deep-rooted tree with heaven-reaching branches. But the evil word is just like an evil tree that only bears malice and hatred. We do not ask that devious conduct or corruption be ignored or that infringement of society's rights go unpunished. We only ask that truthfulness and honesty be observed in reporting incidents, that facts be respected, and that things be put in their proper perspective without exaggeration or false, vindictive allegations. Whenever there is nothing to talk about, they talk about corruption. No country in the world is free of corruption. I am not defending corruption. We allow no case of corruption that we learn of to go unpunished. We do not make judgements; we refer the cases to the judiciary. If it validates a charge, it issues a verdict. As you know, we do not interfere in the judiciary's affairs. There are some judges here among you. We never interfere. If a person is innocent, it is his rights that the judiciary protects. We overlook no case of corruption. I hope those who talk about corruption would look at themselves and those around them [laughter, applause]

They keep talking about corruption, why do they not look at themselves and those around them? If they are really clean, they can talk and we will listen to them. But if we catch them in the act.... [pauses] We do not want to violate the law. [applause]

Brother and sister workers of Egypt, this day is for us, as it is our annual custom to review the achievements, the difficulties, and the obstacles we have faced in order to learn from them. We are continuing to constantly develop our intrinsic resources and look toward a better future that will provide opportunities for fruitful work for our sons, raise people's income to a level commensurate with their burdens, and enable society to have stability and true democracy that give momentum to the march of progress.

I believe that we are capable of fulfilling these hopes with the helping hands of every honest Egyptian citizen and of adding to the edifice with the sweat of workers, farmers, scholars, intellectuals, businessmen, and experts. We have completed the biggest and most difficult stage, rectified the course of the national economy, tackled most of the imbalances that impeded the economy's ability to grow, and raised production efficiency when we began to implement a vast investment program that exceeded two billion Egyptian pounds. This has enabled our society to implement an ambitious and comprehensive development plan whose benefits are steadily growing as a result of initiatives taken by individuals.

You are all aware of what the situation was in 1982 when I took over responsibility; but now we have forgotten. There is everything now: water, sewage, telephones, railroads, roads, more houses being built, expanding agricultural lands, industries, and newly built cities. Have we forgotten that none of this existed then and how no one came to invest? Even Egyptians did not come forward to invest. There were no telephones, roads, electricity, water, sewage, or even houses. I remember that I once toured the outskirts of Heliopolis, near Nasr city, where many houses had been built, but no one wanted to live in them. Why? Because there was no water, no drains, no electricity, nothing at all. Have you forgotten about the telephone problem? I am only reminding you. You are not young and you know all this; you saw all these things. Take the telephones. We had half a million lines, of which 200,000 were in working order. Today we have 3 million lines. Take the railroads, irrigation, agriculture. In irrigation alone, 4,000 km of canals have been built in the past 10 years. Take, for example, the houses that were built in the new cities. Look at the industries established there. Look at the agriculture. But we forget. If one can remember where we stood and where we are today, then he can see how great this achievement has been. It is you who have done it. Don't think that I have done it. No, you have done it. It has all been Egyptian planning and work. [applause]

The expenditure on the infrastructure for the past development plans was 204 billion pounds. The expenditure for the current plan will be another 200 billion pounds. These are vast sums because our problems have been accumulating for 50, 60 years. We had either to confront them or perish. I told you so in the past. We have been forced to confront them even though huge resources were needed.

Now you see them mocking the finance minister and the taxes. But where should we get these resources? [audience laughs] Should we steal? Should we borrow? But we have to pay the loans back or else collapse. It is as clear as that. It is our fate that we are facing 60 years of difficulties and we must act and therefore suffer. This generation has to suffer whether we like it or not. What we are doing is in the people's interest. Wages, prices, and economic reform [words indistinct] increase in production, quality, and our well-planned privatization.

Today they are telling you this or that about privatization. No, brothers; everything we do is calculated. I am telling you this in front of the prime minister and the ministers. I was even speaking yesterday and asked if the boards of the companies that are in the red are being paid bonuses and I was told that they are not. [audience laughs, applauds] Maybe they were paid in the past and got away with it, but nothing of the sort happens now and I am saying this publicly.

However, as you can see, the board of directors of loss-making companies are resigning. We are not sparing anyone now. When the public sector began operation, they talked about whom we appointed. This may have happened because we were in a hurry. However afterward we began an evaluation to see if production had increased and if modernization had taken place. If not, we asked the board of directors to resign and we brought in other people. The people consider that the government's property does not belong to anyone. Therefore we sell shares to the citizens. We want the workers to gradually begin to buy shares. However, there are some huge organizations that cannot be privatized in the way you understand it. But if these organizations need more capital, let the citizens buy shares. For example, there is the Abu-Qir Company which offered 6 million pounds worth of shares to the citizens. The shares were sold out in 48 hours because it is a profit-making company. Nobody wants to buy shares in a money-losing company. However, we are reforming such companies so that they will become profitable.

This huge investment program has had a positive effect on all aspects of Egyptian life because it covers all spheres with unprecedented unanimity. This program has increased the effectiveness of economic and financial reform policies, and this has changed the course of economic development in Egypt, giving the national economy increasing strength and flexibility, and encouraging the private sector, which is now responsible for half of the development projects.

The boards of directors of profit-making companies get money. [audience laughs] The boards of directors of unprofitable companies do not. [audience laughs] We reward the workers because they produce.

Brothers and sisters: It may be beneficial to give some examples to indicate the growing nature of Egypt's economic capabilities as a result of this huge investment program, which has given society a chance to produce and given it immunity to sudden fluctuations. Investment in agriculture and land reclamation amounts to 15 billion pounds. We have been able to add more land to the cultivated areas, which will reach 1,200,000 feddans by the end of the third development plan in 1997. The implementation of this program required digging canals and aqueducts. From 1982 to 1994 we dug about 4,000 km of aqueducts. By the year 2000 we will have dug another 2,000 km. These 4,000 km are more than we have dug in the past 30, 40, 50, 60 years. The implementation of this program required digging canals and aqueducts longer than the Nile River, and building one-fourth as many barrages as were built in Egypt since the time of Muhammad 'Ali.

I once visited a big country where they showed me a bridge. They told me it is the longest bridge over a river in the world. They said it is 2,100 meters long; I told them we have a 2,300-meter-long bridge. [audience laughs] We actually have such a bridge in the north, near Disuq. They boasted they have a 2,000-meter-long bridge. I told them we have 2,200 and 2,300-meter-long bridges. We have many bridges over the Nile. We have many bridges and barrages on the Nile, but the people forget. Television must enlighten the people on what is happening in their country so that they can be proud of their country. I am proud of my country because I know what is being done. Every citizen must know these things so that he will be proud of his country.

These great efforts have increased crop production which has brought the productivity of Egyptian soil near international standards. The production of sugar cane and rice has increased in recent years. The increase in production of these crops is the primary aim of the agricultural policy. These crops are the main food source and constitute a considerable part of the production requirements for several of our factories. We have increasing hopes that our agricultural exports will increase.

Brothers, I hear many voices saying we can cultivate the desert and eat wheat. But where would we get the water from? They say we can achieve self-sufficiency in wheat. From the lands cultivated at present? At the expense of rice, cotton, etc? I once read in a newspaper about some official in one of the councils asking: Why do we import fish when we have the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea? Our coasts do not have fish. Why then do our fishermen from Damietta and Port Said go to Eritrea and Yemen to fish? We would not have to import fish if our seas were full of fish. In the past we had a fleet that sailed to Morocco to fish, but it operated at a loss. I do not know where they sold the fish. [audience laughs]

We should really understand. Yes we have a sea but we also have an economic market. This means you don't bring in large ships to fish when they can't catch any, otherwise you will have to pay the fishermen's wages, the ships will lose money, we will have to subsidize them with tax money; and they will only bring you 200 or 300 kgs of fish which, if you can sell it, will not cover even a small part of the expenditures.

We must understand well that we can never satisfy the demand. By God, we are increasing in number. Does this mean that we have to cultivate the desert every time our population increases? Where will I get water for this? All our water is enough for only 2 or 2.5 million feddans at most. And, my God, our population increases by between 12 and 13 million every year.

Increases in Egypt's crop production show how we can quickly reach the levels of world production and even surpass them if the efforts of farmers, workers, and the business sector come together. We are proud of the farmers and the great work they are doing for this homeland. They must take better care of their crops and take into account the recommendations of agricultural experts, especially in the wake of the liberalization of crop prices. The scientists in Egypt's universities, institutes, and research centers must work in the fields in order to apply the achievements of the agricultural revolution, which has permitted food self-sufficiency in many countries. The business sector, whose role in and contribution to the national economy is increasing, must invest more in the modern technology and services required to raise the Egyptian soil's productivity. The great success in the field of agricultural expansion and the obvious progress in the production cycle confirm the possibility of achieving similar success in diversifying our agricultural exports, which should be the second main objective of our agricultural policy.

I have issued instructions that we should begin planning right now under the direct supervision of an apparatus that is free of red tape and bureaucracy to seek ways of exploiting the new lands in Sinai so that they reach half a million feddans after completion of the peace canal project.

The comprehensive development of the Egyptian countryside is the third objective of our agricultural policy and this means focusing on economic activities that are connected to agriculture. It is not reasonable or acceptable to let development in Egypt's countryside be dependent on the production of agricultural crops alone, with half of Egypt's manpower being employed in this sector. In fact we have started experimenting in a number of villages in some governorates, and we will apply the results of these experiments or amending them in the light of accumulated experience so that development will encompass the whole Egyptian countryside.

Brothers and sisters, our hope becomes increasingly clear and bright when we review together the outcome of the huge effort undertaken in the field of industry. You are the heroes and the vanguard of this effort. This effort has proceeded in two parallel and complementary directions. The first course is the renovation and modernization of existing industrial plants that are suffering from wear and tear. The second course is the establishment of new industrial zones and equipment with all needed utilities and services so that they will be ready to receive the biggest number of factories. We have invested 34 billion pounds in industry and mining over the past 11 years. Now we speak in terms of billions whereas before we spoke in terms of millions. In the past the biggest power station cost 100 million pounds, now a power station such as Shubra al-Khaymah costs 1.2 billion pounds. A million has become like a shilling. [audience laughs] They invented new names for a million, instead of a rabbit and [words indistinct]. [audience laughs]

We have invested 42 billion pounds. We have built new industrial zones equipped with services and utilities. So far we have built 13 industrial new towns and five new communities, and we spent 3.3 billion pounds on providing them with utilities. By this investment we have been able to attract 3,044 projects and factories in the towns of 10 Ramadan, 6 October, al-Sadat city, Burj al-'Arab, and other areas. The Egyptian private sector has invested over 10 billion pounds in these towns, providing job opportunities for 170,000 Egyptians.

When investors start a project and we give them tax breaks, some people say reduce their exemptions. Our brothers in the People's Assembly sometimes say there is no need to provide tax exemptions—10 years is too much. I provide exemptions to an investor to encourage him to employ workers. As far as I am concerned, it is better for him to employ workers than to pay taxes. He will build houses. What I will do with the tax money? I want more houses; if he gives us more, I will treat him well. He provides livelihoods for the people and this brings happiness to the citizens. This is what we need.

Emphasis on industry has produced good results. Industry now constitutes 42 percent of total national investment. It contributes to 28 percent of the local production and absorbs 20 percent of the Egyptian manpower expected to be employed during the years of the third five-year plan.

This success has encouraged us to establish new zones, which are being implemented within the framework of the third five-year plan. All necessary funds have been earmarked for establishing 12 new towns and industrial zones. If these towns are not established and the houses and factories not built, where will we be? We will be in a mess. The people will have no housing, no jobs, no livelihood. All of us must calmly remember what we have done. Where were we and where are we now?

In the first years we gave priority to the more needy governorates, above all the Upper Egypt governorates. We had faith in the need to intensify efforts in these areas after we felt the increasing desire of the citizens to invest in the first area allocated for this purpose, namely the industrial zone in Suhaj to which 73 investors have applied in the past three months. It is a new zone in Suhaj. We are creating new areas in Upper Egypt so our brothers will invest there. Some people from Upper Egypt want to invest in Cairo. Why don't you invest there. No, they want to invest here near Cairo. People want to escape from this Cairo. [audience laughs] It is crowded. We will find an agricultural project in Aswan for them. So 73 investors booked plots of land in Suhaj and began the measures to build their factories.

Brothers and sisters, our goal in the next few years is to make Egypt a leader among nations receiving industrial investments in the Middle East. The whole world is looking for investors, and I hope we will not drive them away. Some people say: Someone is driving a so and so car. So what, as long as he has got a legitimate business? You know how much duty he pays on his car? When he goes to clear his car from customs, Finance Minister al-Razzaz does not spare him. [audience laughs] He has to pay. Where does the money go? This makes up our revenue. I know that some people try to find a way out. Some people try to bring in cars on a trip ticket [previous two words in English], but we know how to deal with them. People have told me about this. I also heard something else which is very strange, and I told the finance minister about it a short while ago. Someone imports equipment the duty on which is 12,000 pounds, for instance. He leaves the item in customs and tells them he does not want it. After a while, it will have to be sold at auction. In the meantime, he makes an arrangement with some people to buy it at the auction. If the duty on an item is 12,000 for instance, they buy it for 2,000. Then the original buyer gives these people another 2,000 for profit and buys the item for 4,000, which does not cover the customs duty. So, you have to watch out for such tricks. [audience laughs] Someone told me about this last night. However, tricks are everywhere. I was abroad and everywhere I went I heard of similar tricks. All laws can be circumvented. We are human, after all.

Our goal in the next few years is to make Egypt a leader among nations receiving industrial investments in the Middle East and to be a major center of exports to all world markets. This means we must double our determination and efforts in several directions.

First: to continue our drive to remove all obstacles facing existing and new investments. I have heard much from investors, and I believe the government is working on measures in the field of production necessities and others related to the GATT, so that we can be competitive. We must develop our legislation and conditions to cope with the world trend so that we could find new markets. In our trips abroad we try to find markets. Everywhere I go I try to find markets. Hence the initiative I announced at the People's Assembly in November, when I called for abolishing all administrative procedures for projects with a capital that does not exceed five million pounds, so that all investors had to do was to inform the competent authority about their project. The Egyptians' response to this step has been excellent. During the past four months alone, 190 investors have applied for projects, to the tune of 410 million pounds, that will create 13,000 jobs. Naturally, the people do not want to go through lengthy procedures, whether in the electricity sector, investment authority, or whatever. I try to attend meetings of the investment committee to see what is happening. In one such meeting that I attended, I found a project submitted by two youngsters for approximately 260,000 pounds. They had been waiting for eight months. Why? So the idea crossed my mind. I said why don't we remove obstacles facing investors with capital up to five million pounds? All they need to do is find a plot of land in the new cities or in the desert, not on agricultural land, and then inform the authorities. Let them start and notify the investment authority, which cannot veto them. The investment authority's job is to process the papers for them so that they can qualify for the exemption. Now that this initiative has succeeded, I call on the government to raise the ceiling to 10 million pounds. [applause] The same procedures will apply. If you have a project to the tune of 10 million pounds, inform the investment authority and start your project. There are many places in Upper Egypt. We have to make a breakthrough. If we do not run, we will be lost. The people abroad are running very fast to see where their interests are. If we sit still and do nothing, it will not work.

Second: to complete as quickly as possible establishing and equipping a third group of industrial zones. I believe that the government has taken measures to establish these zones in the areas north of the Gulf of Suez, Port Said, Damietta, and west of Alexandria. On my visits to foreign countries, I discuss this issue with interested countries. We have great hopes but this will take time. We have been working on this field since Reconstruction Minister al-Kafrawi has held this post. He knows the area north of the Gulf of Suez. The problem is that we cooperate with countries that are beset by bureaucracy much more than we are. We are establishing industrial zones in the area north of the Gulf of Suez, Port Said, Damietta, and west of Alexandria. We will also establish industrial zones in Upper Egypt. Anyone can invest in the industrial zones in Kafr al-Shaykh or any other area. These industrial zones are not confined to al-Minufiyah, al-Gharbiyah, or any other area. Anyone can establish projects anywhere and live in these areas.

Third: We will initiate a large international effort to make these areas permanent sites for completing industrialization, and stockpiling products, and distribution for international trade. I think I broached this issue during my visit to the PRC. We will try to benefit from world experience in establishing modern centers for marketing and training services and introducing technology into small projects in Egyptian cities and the countryside.

Our hopes for a better future do not stem from a void but from an objective assessment of the huge achievements that provide Egypt with enormous production centers that are prepared to accommodate thousands of new projects. I do not need to repeat the efforts we have exerted and the resources we have allocated to rebuild the infrastructure, which had deteriorated under increasing burdens. I will not repeat the requirements for new expansion. Our goal of rebuilding the basic utilities was not confined to providing for the enormous housing needs. We focused as much attention on strengthening the industrial sector capabilities and providing it with electricity, transportation, and a sewage system. I remember that in 1983, or perhaps late in 1982, I visited a factory. I asked the manager what they made. He said the factory produced refrigerators and washing machines. I noticed that the workers were sitting doing nothing. I asked why and if the factory was not operating. They told me that the power was out and that the factory had electric power for only two hours a day. I thought if it was reasonable for a factory that had the capability of producing 100 refrigerators a day to have electricity for only two hours and produce only 10 or 15 refrigerators. I thought the workers would be psychologically frustrated, because the more they produced the more they could get. The factory was losing and the workers were not to blame. Egypt at the time produced only 18 billion kilowatts, which was insufficient. Now, thank God, Egypt produces over 70 billion kilowatts. Had it not been for this increased energy production, we would not have had the new towns, industrial progress, or housing, etc. We focused this much attention on bolstering the industrial sector capabilities and providing the requirements of electric energy, transport, transportation, and sewage networks so that Egyptian or foreign investors can establish plants or projects that provide jobs to thousands of people who enter the work market every day.

In this respect, I think it is imperative that I mention two problems that have exhausted the Egyptian minds in the past decades in search of sound solutions. The first is the problem of population growth, which exceeds economic and social development rates. This may prove to be too difficult for our capabilities to handle in the near future. If we do not watch out for the population growth, a time will come when we will be like some countries that cannot feed their people. If the increase continues, where will we get the subsidies from? It will have to come through more taxes. We will not be able to build roads. We will not be able to create jobs, no matter what we do. In the near future, if we do not take this into consideration—and this takes years to pay off—Egypt will face dangers, maybe not in our lifetime, but during future generations, which we work for. The issue of population growth is very serious. We will not be able to find jobs, places, and a proper life for them. We will be like some countries, which I do not want to name, where people live in the mountain with questionable food supplies. Someone from one country told me that they have approximately 100 million people living below the poverty line. They do not even give them bread or anything. They leave them on their own to eat grass, and I do not mean the other grass [Egyptian Arabic word for grass is hashish] [audience laughs] or anything else. Naturally, this also results in the problem of unemployment.

The second problem is unemployment, which has been on the rise in recent years, although its roots and causes go back to earlier administrations during which real productivity was not the objective of employment. As far as the population growth is concerned, the efforts to which the entire people have contributed have made noticeable progress which, all signs indicate, will be sustained for long years to come. The increase in population cannot be stopped over night. It takes years for the rate to go down. The growth in population has gone down to approximately 2.2, which points to a sensible response by Egyptian families to the call for planning. Our Prophet has said: A strong believer is better and closer to God than a weak believer. If I have a modest income and a family of 10, how can I feed them? Just having them around the house will raise your blood pressure and you will die. [audience laughs] Each one will ask for something. But if the family is small, no matter what headache they may cause you can handle it, you will be able to offer them a proper life, educate them, dress them well, and give them medical treatment. This is because we do not know what the future has in stock for us. I believe the future generations will not go through the labyrinths we, our fathers, and grandfathers had to go through. The world has shown an interest in the drop in the population growth in Egypt. Cairo has been chosen to host one of the most important conferences on population in the 20th century under the auspices of the United Nations. Thousands of political leaders, scientists, and thinkers will meet in Egypt to exchange ideas on population issues.

The Chinese, for instance, increase by 15 million every year. I laughed with them and told them: Why don't you take 30 millions more from us and pretend that you increased by 30 millions extra in two years. [audience laughs] We welcome this conference and the arrival of the elite world leaders, thinkers, and experts. But in the midst of this success, we must not forget that despite the drop in population growth in the past few years, the rate of population growth in Egypt is still higher than in many countries that strive to improve the living standards of their people. Despite this drop, we expect from now until the year 2000 to increase by 12 million people. Of them, more than 3.5 million youngsters will join the labor market. May God help us find jobs for them. We will have to find fruitful jobs for them, not to mention those who are left behind without a job as a result of the population increase in the past 10 years.

All this causes us to intensify government and popular efforts to sustain the success made in controlling the population increase, whether in hamlets, villages, or cities. As for the problem of unemployment, it exists all over the world, and I am not defending it. The United States is running around trying to open doors for workers. In France, which also suffers from a high unemployment rate, the French foreign minister has told the people: Don't expect me to solve this problem quickly, because it takes years. Here some people think it can be solved overnight. Someone comes out and calls for unemployment benefits. How can we tell who is working and who is unemployed? Maybe someone is working in the private sector and is applying for work in the government. Abroad, they have computers and know all the information. If someone submits an application, they will check his name on the computer. Is our system here computerized? No. And to computerize it we need money.

[Mubarak is asked by someone in the audience about Law No. 55; he replies:] No, the government is still working on it because it is a very complicated issue. Do you want to quit or what? [audience laughs]

Perhaps the proper way to address the problem of unemployment is that for the first time we have a detailed chart that contains accurate information on the matter. The comprehensive survey conducted throughout all governorates and villages shows that the number of university and school graduates who have applied for work in the past 10 years is 3.946 million people, almost four million. We have found jobs for approximately 2.5 million of them. Also, 835,000 more jobs have been found for applicants who do not hold university or school degrees. This shows that despite the difficulties, the Egyptian economy has managed to provide 3.4 million jobs in the past 10 years; that is, 341,000 [number as heard] jobs annually. But we cannot go on like this indefinitely. They need industries, land, etc. For how long can we keep up? However, the population increase has forced on us a situation where a number of graduates remain unemployed. They number approximately 2.4 million, and they represent 9.2 of the Egyptian work force. The unemployment rate is measured in comparison to the total work force, and this is the way it is everywhere in the world. I will read to you some figures about unemployment in the world, and they are statistics obtained from world magazines. In other words, we did not make them up to suit our purpose. In Spain the rate is 23 percent; in France it is 12 percent, and these are major industrial nations. In Italy it is 11.7 percent, in the UK it is approximately 10 percent, in Germany it is 9.1 percent, in the Netherlands it is 4.2 percent, in Belgium it is 11 percent, in Denmark it is 11 percent, in Finland it is 12.5 percent, and in Ireland it is 20 percent. This is just to show you the rates around the world. The rate in Egypt is 9.2 percent of the work force.

You are not unaware of the strenuous efforts undertaken by the state to cope with this steady increase in the number of citizens who join the work force annually. I repeat once again that the effective way to address this situation is to increase the growth rate in gross domestic product to be more than double the rate of population growth. This alone can absorb the new work force while at the same time lessen the number of the existing unemployed. We will not manage to expand productivity unless we are able to sell our products in the world markets. This is an important point. If production increases but it cannot be sold, nobody will increase the production. It will be wasted. Thus, we must find world markets. The world markets have their own conditions, and I believe that the private sector is more active than the business sector in this regard, and I hope the latter will catch up. In the meantime, the private sector must be more active, and we are helping it. We are opening doors abroad, and it has to do the rest.

A businessman with a large production once came to me and asked that the government market his products abroad. I told him that I would not pay him one fourth of the price of his products. [audience laughs] How could the government market his products? Let it market its own products, or not, right, 'Atif [Sidqi]? [audience laughs]

We will not be able to expand the production bases until we are able to sell their products in world markets. This makes the expansion of exports a persistent requirement and a basic condition for progress. In addition, this is considered an essential requirement for bridging the present gap in the balance of payments and the trade balance. This gap is caused by the fact that we import $11 billion worth of commodities and our exports, excluding oil, total approximately $1.5 billion.

We do not doubt that Egypt's workers and producers will forge ahead to achieve this strategic goal so as to fulfill the homeland's hope for Egypt to take its fair share in international trade. The government will support every effort aimed at promoting exports and will remove all administrative obstacles before exporters. It remains for the producers and workers to make quality the focus of attention and activity. Let 1994, brothers and sisters, be the year of quality and the good name of Egyptian products, a year in which we will all participate to achieve great strides in our exports and to come close to a balance between imports and exports. Achieving this goal also requires us to go ahead with reforming the mismanaged companies now that we have drawn up a comprehensive program that we hope to able to implement in 1995 so that the workers of these companies will enjoy new circumstances allowing for increased production and higher wages. The workers in any successful establishment have a right to have higher wages that link wages and production.

The stance of the workers establishments on the reform program was splendid and proved that Egypt's workers are the soldiers of reform who have a real interest in promoting the production establishments and their capabilities. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, a serious and frank confrontation of shortcomings and the roots of problems and a firm commitment to the reform programs will win Egypt world respect and will give us increasing confidence in a brighter future. The concrete indications of this future are the fruits of reform that are manifest to everyone. We used to spend more than our annual income and would pay the accumulating and increasing deficit by borrowing inside and outside Egypt. However, we have rationalized our expenditure, developed our revenue sources, and have come very close to striking a balance between the state's revenues and expenditures. Certain circumstances dictated that we impose new taxes but we were careful that most of the burdens affect those who can afford to pay. However, it was inevitable that part of this burden would affect all segments of society in order to curb inflation, preserve the value of the national currency, and address the remaining defects that hindered the national economy. I am not an economist, but when inflation rises, prices will go up. Simply speaking, when inflation besets a country, there will be more money than production. Prices will skyrocket to the point that no one can control.

The economic reform policies, which economic experts and international establishments testify are being soundly implemented, have generated increased confidence in our national economy. The budget deficit dropped this year to less than 3 percent, but at one time it had risen to about 25 percent. This is the main problem in many countries of the world. Inflation rates have dropped to 8 percent and the savings deposits have continued to increase.

Freeing the exchange rate and lifting restrictions on foreign currency have improved the investment atmosphere and reassured exporters. We have ended the black market. We also confronted those using the people's livelihood to acquire huge profits by exploiting the flow of subsidies. We faced the problem with courage. We devoted the entire subsidy to basic commodities for the toiling masses, namely bread, sugar, and edible oil. This enabled us to guarantee that this subsidy would go to the right people. However, there was much fraud. But I do not want to go into details.

We eliminated many restrictions that were imposed on investment. We reduced taxes on production equipment and tools. But some people say this is not enough. However, the issue still requires in-depth studies and new measures, because 42 percent of the national industrial machinery is being imported from abroad. This is why the government will look into the production prerequisites so that we can compete. I must help the industrial sector, the private sector, and the business sector to enable them to compete in the world market. The current competition is extremely keen. The competition race will assume a new stage after the implementation of GATT.

We lifted the unjust burdens that obstructed producers. This will help them reduce production costs and enhance the ability of Egyptian products to compete in local and foreign markets. This will also help producers enter world markets and maintain a distinguished position for Egyptian exports.

Brothers and sisters, the sound starting point in the social, economic, and even political transformation process dictates that we marshal our greatest energies to create a radical change in the educational philosophy commensurate with development needs and society's requirements. I believe that we are pursuing a sound path.

The Egyptian citizen represents our most valuable treasure. The Egyptian citizen is our hope, and through this citizen alone the process of progress is completed and Egypt's aspired objectives are achieved. Progress cannot be achieved without the promotion of the Egyptian citizen's energies and the transfer of the largest number of this people into participants in increasing and promoting the quality of production. This is first among the many huge tasks that we still have to perform. The way to attain this task is to reconsider our concepts of the educational and training institutions, which are indeed productive establishments that should be given priority in our investment programs.

The developed world has realized that the potential and talent of a productive human being can be perceived and nurtured from the first year of education. The school is now a center for receiving education and the development of skills. Praise be to God, we realized that the importance of promoting the quality of education and its role in training and preparing skills will always enable the citizens to have the appropriate job opportunities. This could never have been done without an overall national program to modernize our schools and promote their syllabuses. We must focus on the substance and quality and not on quantity during the school years to enable our sons to carry out school activities that would develop their skills.

The implementation of this program started last year when, with the cooperation and effective and worthy participation of friends, the able sons of this country managed to insure the largest possible degree of investment to build thousands of modern schools that can serve this new concept and the objectives of education. Last year alone, 1,500 schools were built and 7,800 others were renovated. All this cost us 1.3 billion pounds. This is where money is spent. Steps are under way to build 1,500 schools this year at a time when the investment expenditures were doubled over the past two years. The expenditures are four times those incurred in 1992. Nevertheless, there still are many things to be achieved because the program to modernize the Egyptian schools needs tens of billions of pounds.

It is worth noting that the plan to develop and modernize technical education and vocational training adopts the two-sided educational system applied in many advanced countries. This system is based on combining education and training in the institute because training is the basic factor in creating skilled labor, people who can deal with complicated technical problems and increase the quality of products.

Our new industrial facilities in Madinat al-'Ashir min Ramadan, Madinat Sittah Uktubar, al-Sadat, Burj al-'Arab, and other areas will pioneer this new educational trend. This should get us off to a good start in the 21st century, where factory blends with school, laboratory with library, and production and industry with science and innovation, and where quality is based on research and creativity.

The second task facing us is that of finding a comprehensive solution to the problems of Egyptian citizen living in randomly-built slum areas. The randomly-built areas are scars on Egypt's face. The level of public services available in these areas is much lower than anything we consider acceptable for a dear section of the Egyptian people.

As you may know, I have instructed the competent authorities to prepare a two-part comprehensive plan to face this problem.

The first part, already under way, deals with the problems of existing randomly-built areas, many of which go back to the thirties in this century.

When we looked closely into the randomly-built areas we discovered that some go back to the year 1924. The first shantytown sprang up in 1924. By the sixties the phenomenon had mushroomed and in the seventies and eighties it got even worse.

In al-Jizah, there is a place called 'Izbat al-Sa'aydah that goes back to 1924. Saqiyat Makki dates back to 1960 and al-Munib to 1970. In Cairo, 'Izbat Abu-Ard goes back to 1955, 'Arab Ghunaym and 'Arab Wadi to 1960, Manshiyat Nasir to 1962, and 'Izbat al-Hajjanah to 1965. In Alexandria, 'Izbat al-Sayd goes back to 1960. All these are randomly-built areas that came into being over the years.

I would like to tell you this: When we began the first development plan we were not able to take care of every problem in the country. We had to make priorities. The money we had at our disposal was limited. We spend it according to priorities, updating the infrastructure, building housing, and so one and so forth.

Now, it is time to address the problem of randomly-built areas. Do you know how much these randomly-built areas will cost us? We have spent 581 million pounds so far. In order to rehabilitate these areas in 11 governorates, we will need seven billion pounds. Shall we cut back all other programs to focus on this problem? By the time we get to the other governorates, the sum total of expenditure on randomly-built areas will reach 17 billion. We are aware of the size of the problem and, within our resources, will do everything possible to resolve it. I want every citizen to live in dignity.

In the first part of the aforesaid plan, we will spend 600 million pounds in urban renovation programs, of which the southern governorates will receive about 300 million pounds.

The second part of the plan aims at preventing the emergence of such areas in the future through the building of planned areas in all governorates on a scale sufficient to absorb the increase in urban population. This effort will fall within the third development plan.

A third task facing us is that of protecting low-income households in order to achieve social justice. The country will continue to offer equal opportunity in education and to provide free education in all state-run schools. The state is also committed to providing health care to the needy in its hospitals and clinics. Over the next few years, we will redouble our effort to improve the quality of health care provided in state-run hospitals and clinics.

The state also takes it upon itself to subsidize bread, even if its cost goes up. We are now spending 1.542 billion on bread subsidies and will maintain these subsidies on principle, even though we are aware of the rising cost involved, due to increased wheat prices and the higher demand associated with the growth in population. The state is providing this subsidy because it believes that the poor should be able to buy bread at a price that suits their income.

The state's guarantee is confirmed and is continuing in all these fields. However, the real guarantee for those who are not able to help themselves is achieved by helping them become able to help themselves. Therefore, as of next year we will allocate more financial resources for the social fund, for the productive families project, and for the projects of supporting craftsmen and owners of small workshops to help these groups raise their income.

The fourth mission is the comprehensive and continuous modernization of the production of commodities and services. This is one of the most important challenges that we must meet as soon as possible. This will enable Egyptian producers to dedicate their efforts to developing Egyptian commodities in form and substance.

The fifth mission is the development of the Egyptian administration system so that it will be able to effect the desired changes aimed at increasing the Egyptian society's capacity for production and exports. We must search for qualified people and select those capable of turning loss into profit and failure into success in our establishments. We must train these personnel on the most modern methods of administration. This must take place under the supervision and auspices of efficient trainers capable of effecting this change in the Egyptian administration system.

Brothers and sisters, we are dedicating all our effort and work for the sake of God and the homeland. In all our steps we adhere to the basic interests of the people. We make sacrifices to make them happy and we work hard to make them secure. An examination of our activity abroad will reveal to those who wish to know that the main aim of this activity is to serve the domestic front, provide the proper climate for the promotion of the national interest, secure the Egyptian people's right to develop their resources, achieve the maximum employment of their creative capabilities, and arrive at a better life.

This was our pledge and commitment when we extended the bridges of friendship and understanding to the various peoples of the world, in the East and West and in the North and South. This was our wish and desire when we exploited these relations to find work opportunities for Egyptian workers abroad and to open new markets for Egyptian commodities and services. We succeeded in canceling half of our debts which accumulated while were building our infrastructure from a near zero point. This will remain our pledge and commitment as we step into the 21st century and participate with other states in establishing a new world order.

The emphasis of big and small states alike is generally turning from political and military affairs to economic issues and concerns. In this connection, we note two important phenomena that require us to open our minds and devote our thinking to the alternatives available to us to deal with them and with their effects on our national interests. The first phenomenon is represented by the rapid changes that have occurred recently in the field of international trade. Many people ask what this GATT is. I believe the economy minister can explain this issue on television. The recent round of Uruguay multilateral talks resulted in the signing of an important agreement which will result in drawing up the course of trade exchange among world states for the coming decades. This agreement was approved in Marrakesh on 15 April. The second phenomenon is the tendency of many states in the various continents to establish huge economic blocs that will make it difficult for small and isolated entities to run their economic and trade relations efficiently and effectively unless they take the necessary measures to deal with this new situation.

In view of the political and technical complications surrounding these two phenomena, we must not hesitate to assess them and to draft the policy we will follow in confronting their effect on us and the fraternal countries with whom we share unity of interest and fate, particularly the Arab fraternal countries and the African countries. Therefore, I decided to make these two topics an object of meticulous and in-depth study that does not focus on theoretical issues but on aspects that are useful in charting policy and adopting the stands that are effective in protecting our pan-Arab interests.

Since these two issues should be submitted to the various official and popular groupings and institutions for general discussion, I believe that the Labor Federation must effectively participate in this work [applause] because it would not be fair for such issues to be decided far from the concept and principles of the labor base.

Moving on to the Middle East peace process, we find that positive signs give rise to hopes that 1994 will be the year in which we find a comprehensive and lasting peace on every track, starting with the Palestinian track on which the two sides made great strides by signing the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo agreements and agreeing on most details for setting up the Palestinian self-rule authority to replace the Israeli military government and its civil administration.

The month of May must witness the faithful and strict implementation of these agreements so as to enhance the peace process and deepen the concerned peoples' confidence in the inevitability of the victory of peace and the influence of stability and security against the tendencies toward violence, rejection, and impotence.

Brothers and sisters, our high hopes for a brighter future are based on firm foundations and rational objective considerations. This is because they rely on clear-cut reasoning and hard work that has enabled Egypt regain its pioneering role in making progress. Had it not been for the corrective efforts along the economic and political tracks, we would have never been able to bridge the huge transformation process with the outstanding success that changed the face of life in Egypt.

Our clear concept promoted our conviction that the homeland will only achieve its objectives through the combined efforts of all its sons within a secure and stable society where rights and duties are equal. We have long experience which confirms that society will become more productive and capable if it allows its individuals to make initiatives, if it pursues wise policies, and if does not isolate itself from the process of world progress.

We also have a clear awareness that deepens our understanding of the importance of social solidarity in building a homeland free of hatred and rancor, guarded by social peace, unaffected by division and internecine fighting, and a homeland with safeguards for the interests of every citizen within a just system that will save the homeland's stability and harmony.

We have lessons learned from experience and the experience of others. These lessons confirm that a sound democracy can only be established by meeting the citizen's economic and social needs and demands. We are confident that a just peace represents a basic pan-Arab interest for the sake of stability and development. We have faced tremendous difficulties, but we made sincere efforts to build a firm foundation capable of standing fast in the face of emergency changes and capable of accomplishing continued development.

We have resisted the allure of palliative and temporary sedatives, opting instead to address the roots, not just the symptoms of problems. We sought out every expert who is willing to offer his opinion and effort. We opened the door wide to the experience of others, without complexes or sensitivities. We did everything humanly possible to stay on the right track, working out difficulties, correcting mistakes, and, within the limits of the law, deterring the ambitions of conspirators.

Our aim has always been that of bringing the country into the 21st century and imparting to it enough vitality to deal with the challenges of a new era and to become a part of the march of human progress that accelerates daily with the contribution of all nations, old and new.

The world is moving faster and faster toward a future in which there will be no room for nations who are dependent on others or those too embroiled in their petty squabbles to read the writing on the wall. It is my belief that there is no country under the sun worthier than Egypt of becoming a part of the new dawn. [applause]

We do not need miracles; we have what it takes. Nor do we need to look far afield: We are at the threshold of achievement. The climate is right. The policies are in place. Change is already under way.

What every one of us should do now is search his soul, explore his duty, and get ready to play his part. What we need is faith in God and the country and a sense of responsibility toward the country's national interests. The nation is the sum total of all citizens.

We are not asking for miracles. We ask for solidarity, cooperation, and goodwill. These are the bastions that protect the country's unity and safety. We do not ask for great sacrifices. We encourage scrupulous performance, quality, and precision. We need to respect expertise, apply science, coordinate our efforts, and strive toward excellence and distinction.

We do not ask for the impossible. We ask for involved participation by every citizen everywhere. There is no longer a reason for indifference and apathy. Involved participation means that every one of us should undergo a change. We need to go back to our roots, to the principles that have brought civilization to the Egyptian people and the values that made them achieve miracles.

Brothers and sisters, truth is not the exclusive domain of anyone. Nor is responsibility the exclusive domain of the ruler, the party, or the government. Everyone has a part to play and is entitled to give his opinion and express his views. Everyone has national, ethical, and constitutional rights and obligations.

I am confident that we all have a sense of commitment to national interests and will act in a spirit of patriotism. This spirit is particularly felt in times of danger, when clouds of sedition gather in the air and the country walks toward a turning point of destiny. Regardless of our differences of opinion and disparity of views, unity and this spirit of patriotism will see us through.

Our spirit of patriotism and respect for national interests will help us preserve our unity. Our differences, regardless of their intensity, will remain within the realm of varying views and freedom of expression. Egyptian patriots reject destruction and loath any damage to the country's interests.

I am confident, brothers and sisters, that Egypt will emerge, God willing, stronger, more competent, and more determined to forge ahead on the path of progress. A new dawn is breaking and towering achievements are ahead.

Egypt will thrust forward, victorious and robust. Banners of glory will brighten the sky in every part of its land. Safe and stable, it will see construction grace every part of its land and its current and future generations step boldly into the 21st century.

Brothers and sisters, despite difficulties and troubles, I can say with a great deal of satisfaction and gratitude that God has guided us onto the right path. God has given us the strength to bear the burdens of our duties, the wisdom to make the right decisions, and the light to tell good from bad and right from wrong.

I implore God Almighty to give us the fortitude to stay on the right path and to act gracefully and honorably. "And say: Work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work, and His apostle, and the believers." [Koranic verse] May peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Seven 'Dangerous Terrorists' Killed in Suhaj

NC3004150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Suhaj, 30 Apr (MENA)—Seven dangerous terrorists were killed today in Tahta in Suhaj Governorate.

The State Security Investigations Department has received information that the fugitive terrorists are hiding in a desert area west of Tahta. When the security forces tried to storm the terrorists' hideout, they were fired on. The security forces returned fire and killed the seven terrorists. A Grenof [as received] gun, one automatic rifle, and three Enfield rifles were found in their possession.

The seven killed terrorists are considered to be some of the most dangerous fugitives. They were involved in many terrorist incidents in southern Upper Egypt.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Phone Call From Yemen's al-Bid

LD3004185494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Apr—Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council in Yemen, made a phone call to the brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] during which he expressed his concern over the deteriorating situation in unified Yemen. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed that the Arab nation must intervene to save Yemen from a civil war and fratricide.

Commentary: West Fabricates To Gain Intervention

LD3004142594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Commentary by unidentified JANA editor]

[Text] In a statement, the Rwandan National Front criticized France's interference in Rwanda. The Front stressed that France had been involved in this conflict for three years through giving weapons to some parties in the conflict and this added to the massacres among the ranks of the Rwandan people. The UN secretary general called for preparing a huge UN military force to send to Rwanda, which is witnessing a party and tribal conflict.

The JANA African affairs editor commented on this by saying: Western states are the ones that fabricate incidents and problems in many parts of the world with the aim of achieving a military intervention in those regions.

The editor wondered why international forces did not stop the racial and religious conflict in Bosnia and said that the dubious role of these forces in Somalia was known to all.

JANA Editor on U.S. Freezing of Iraqi Assets

LD0105142394 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has decided to seize the Iraqi assets which have been frozen in the United States since the Gulf war, valued at $1.2 billion. The JANA economic affairs editor commented on this, saying:

The decision of the U.S. House of Representatives to seize Iraqi assets deposited in American banks was a clear and direct robbery which is punishable by the international law that organizes relations between states. It is also considered as an open violation and blatant aggression against all financial and banking organizations in which dealing between states is achieved and also under the protection and encouragement of which, many states that produce raw materials have deposited their funds in American and European banks.

This measure gives a negative and even a very dangerous sign to Arab states that deposit funds and about the fate of the Arab people in the West's banks. Under the pretext of investing funds or protecting them from wastage and robbery, this measure confirms with irrefutable proof that the Arab funds in Western private and governmental banks are not immune, protected, or invested and there is no interest in their existence.

The measure which must be taken immediately and without official endorsement [as heard] is to withdraw these funds and bonds, and redeposit and reuse them in the Arab region, which is in most need of these funds in order to achieve its development, civilizational change, and the prosperity of its sons who are the ones entitled to their wealth.

JANA Editor on UK 'Campaign Against Iran'

LD0105184794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1642 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, 1 May—These days the British Government is waging a violent campaign against Iran under the pretext that Iran had contacts with the IRA.

The JANA international affairs editor commented on this, saying: This campaign is merely a repeated attempt on the part of Britain to falsify the truth and abolish rationality. This attempt is governed by a colonialist logic based on misrepresentation, deception, and turning the given facts upside down, if what gave rise to the British Government's rancor was the contact of a certain party with the IRA.

As it recently confessed, it was in official contact with this organization at a time when it was describing it as a terrorist organization and anyone who had contact with its members as a terrorist who supported terrorism.

But if the matter is related to aid from one party to another, in Britain's history and the behavior of its governments are matters which make it the first to be condemned and the first against whom a campaign should be waged motivated by the anger of peoples rather than those campaigns based on falsification. It has been noticed that it was Britain who received and provided support for the Iranian opposition. Now it is trying to cover up this stance by waging its propaganda campaign against Iran.

When it raises the Irish issue in this framework, it is trying at the same time to deceive peoples' minds by diverting attention to the essential cause of this problem which is its occupation of Ireland and its determination to colonize this country and deny Irish people the right to self-determination and then has recourse to pinning its evil actions on others.

The Editor added that what Britain is complaining about today is its own doing, as it is the one which occupied

Ireland and the Irish people did not go to occupy Britain. It is also the state which built an empire on colonizing peoples and draining their wealth and is now reaping what its hands committed and that empire and its limbs were cut off by the struggle of peoples for freedom and independence. Britain has collapsed to the point where it retreated to its capital London and in front of which it is taking in its doorstep and might even retreat to beyond this capital unless it submits to the logic of right and law and abandons its behavior ruled by the colonialist and guardianship mentality and becomes aware of the fact that the resistance by the Irish—whose fire is burning as the result of its occupation—is not caused by Iran or anyone else. Britain has no other way to get out of this situation apart from ending its occupation of Ireland and letting the Irish people achieve self-determination.

Hajj Pilgrims To Travel on Camels To Protest Blockade

NC2904150594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—People arriving from Libya through the al-Sallum border point have said that the Libyan authorities are currently trying to organize a trip for Libyan pilgrims on camels to perform this year's hajj. The caravan will start from Musa'id city and end in Suez city in Egypt

They said that the caravan, which will consist of 300 camels, is meant to express the Jamahiriyah's protest against the air and economic blockade.

It should be noted that these pilgrims will be transported from Suez port directly to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

Government Official Asks ICO To Aid Hajj Pilgrims

LD0105221094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, 1 May—Brother Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, has sent a message to Hamed Algabid, the secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

In his letter he calls for the necessary contacts to be made regarding the call to ICO member countries to hold an emergency session of the conference of ICO foreign ministers before the date of this year's pilgrimage. The meeting would be to discuss the subject of Libyan pilgrims being impeded from carrying out the religious ceremony of pilgrimage, due to the unjust measures imposed by Western states via the Security Council, that would enable Libyan citizens to perform this religious duty free from the hindrances imposed by the resolutions of the Security Council.

In his message he emphasized that the resolutions of the Security Council which imposed an air embargo on the Great Jamahiriyah were in essence purely political resolutions which had led to Libyan pilgrims being impeded in the performance of their religious duty securely, peacefully and easily and had led brotherly Islamic states to assist the Security Council in its resolutions by stopping the Libyan people from getting to the holy mosque in Mecca.

Sudan

President Accuses Officers of Plotting Coup

NC3004110194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Sudan's security forces have arrested Major General Muhammad Ahmad prior to his departure from Khartoum to assume the post as his country's ambassador to Kenya.

The "Brothers" sources in Khartoum have confirmed that before his departure the major general had invited some of his military colleagues to a dinner at his house. Heading the list of guests was Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. The sources said that the dinner invitation turned into an open dialogue between al-Bashir and the army officers, during which the latter severely criticized al-Bashir for neglecting the Army and thereby enabling the Islamic Front's cadres to seize power. The sources note that al-Bashir did not voice any objection to the officers' talk during dinner.

They said that al-Bashir left the dinner party and went directly to the house of the Front's interior minister, 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn, and told him there was a major coup plot under way by active and retired army officers led by Major General Ahmad, known as "Al-Sirr Ab Ahmad." He also told the interior minister that he personally had uncovered this plot while meeting with the officers. The sources added that the interior minister ordered the arrest of the major general and his officer colleagues. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Government Rules on Sentencing in Conspiracy Case

AB3004210594 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, April 30 (AFP)—Fourteen opposition figures, including the army's former supreme commander, have been sentenced to between two and 10 years in jail for conspiring to topple the government, judicial officials said Saturday [30 April].

A special civil tribunal announced it had sentenced nine out of 17 people tried in absentia to 10 years for conspiring against 'Umar al-Bashir's regime.

They included former army commander-in-chief General Fathi Ahmed Ali, former security chief General Al Hadi Bushra, and former Deputy Chief of Staff General Abdul Rahman Saeed.

They were charged with sending teams to Lebanon for explosives training in order to carry out sabotage and assassinations inside Sudan as a precursor to a coup.

The remaining eight tried in their absence were acquitted.

Five of the nine defendants present in court, who were arrested in May, were jailed for between two and seven years.

The remaining four were acquitted.

'Observers' Assess Formation of 'New Sudan'

NC3004201794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 9

[Report by Ahmad Sirab from the "Brothers" page]

[Text] In a sudden turn of events, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], led by Colonel John Garang, has announced the formation of a new political and administrative entity it has christened "New Sudan." At the end of its general congress meetings, held near the Sudanese border with Uganda last week, the SPLM issued a statement. According to the statement, the SPLM congress formed an executive council and instructed it:

1. To seek self-determination for the "New Sudan" people.

2. To mobilize the country's resources for the war effort.

3. To separate civilian from military administration.

4. To create the necessary infrastructure for "New Sudan."

5. To create an independent judicial system.

6. To respect the law and protect human rights.

7. To issue a general amnesty for former insurgents.

With these seven tasks and the announcement of this new organization, the SPLM has taken a serious step toward the formation of a state completely separate from north Sudan. The statement defines the borders of New Sudan as those areas in south Kurdufan in western Sudan, areas south of the Blue Nile in eastern Sudan, and the three south districts of Upper Nile, Equatoria, and Bahr al-Ghazal.

According to political observers, the above resolutions run counter to all the agreements endorsed by the National Democratic Grouping [al-tajammu' al-watani al-dimuqrati; NDG]. The NDG's charter, which the SPLM had signed, calls for replacing the current regime in Sudan with a transitional democratic government and a multiparty system.

Observers say that the views of several northern political organizations, who support self-determination in south Sudan, have encouraged the SPLM to make this difficult decision.

According to African observers, Garang was under heavy pressure to take such a step. There has been unprecedented pressure for secession and the formation of an independent state in the south. Observers say that the 10-year war has taken its toll on the SPLM.

The sudden tack by Garang's group coincides with mounting unrest in Sudan. Antigovernment demonstrations were reported in Madani and al-Qadarif. The protests could threaten the regime's survival if they spread to Khartoum.

Observers say that the opening a new dialogue with Garang's SPLM would be useless so long as the National Islamic Front is in power. They add that Sudan's unity can only be preserved through swift action to bring down the regime.

Kuwait

Ministers Note U.S. Commitment To Defend Gulf

LD0105171694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1456 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Kuwait, 1 May 1994, KUNA—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers praised today the firm principled stances expressed by the foreign ministers of the fraternal GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states towards support for the Kuwaiti issue.

In a statement after the meeting of the Council, under the chairmanship of the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al- 'Abdallah, the minister of state for cabinet affairs,minister of planning and acting foreign minister, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, said that the Council expressed "its consideration for and satisfaction with the confirmation by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher" lately "of his country's commitment to defend the security and stability of the Gulf region and its understanding of the Iraqi hostile regime and the permanent threat it constitutes for the security and stability in the region. He also expressed the eagerness of the United States for the necessity to continue pressures on this regime so as it implements the resolutions of the UN Security Council which are related to its aggression against Kuwait". [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With Qatar

LD2604172094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1538 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage indistinct] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad denied that interviews conducted by Qatari television on an Iraqi street and with Iraqi officials have caused a rift in relations between the State of Kuwait and Qatar.

He said: "We do not consider this subject a rift. There is understanding within the GCC and the GCC members are the closest of people to each other."

On a question related to the religious phenomenon in Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that it was an internal Kuwaiti phenomenon unconnected with the phenomenon of international religious terrorism or any external body.

He said: "We accept this phenomenon since we consider it to be an internal Kuwaiti phenomenon which does not believe in what others do."

On a question related to the State of Kuwait's stance on the Palestinian cause, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that a differentiation must be made between the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian leadership, which has wronged Kuwait. He said that throughout its history the State of Kuwait has been one of the most supportive of the Palestinian cause and will continue to support the Palestinian people, but not through the current leadership. He recalled that the State of Kuwait has granted $25 million through international bodies to set up schools and hospitals in Gaza and Jericho. He explained that only small groups of Palestinians have been deported from Kuwait, and that those who left Kuwait have done so at their own will.

In answer to a question related to Kuwait's stance on the Arab boycott of Israel, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that Kuwait abides by the Arab League resolutions related to the first degree boycott of Israel. He said that after its liberation from Iraq, Kuwait had been obliged to lift the second and third degree boycott because of its pressing need for companies which possess technology and expertise in those areas destroyed by the Iraqi forces during their occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Receives Yemeni Envoy, Message From Salih

NC3004204694 Paris AFP in English 1939 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Riyadh, April 30 (AFP)—Yemen's Planning Minister 'Abd- al-Karim al-Iryani arrived here Saturday [30 April] with a message for King Fahd dealing with the situation in Yemen and a bilateral border dispute, officials said.

Al-Iryani's visit came amid reports of fresh clashes between rival northern and southern Yemeni troops in the 'Imran region, 60 kilometers (36 miles) north of Sanaa.

The minister told AFP the message, from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, was a response to a message Salih received from the king 10 days ago.

Al-Iryani refused to comment on the conflict between forces loyal to Salih and those backing the president's southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

A southern military spokesman in Aden said elite northern Republican Guards "resumed criminal actions against elements of the (southern) third armoured brigade."

Ferocious tank battles in the same area Wednesday and Thursday left nearly 200 dead and dozens of others wounded, according to journalists.

The Saudi-Yemeni border dispute centres on the provinces of 'Asir, Najran and Jizan, which were handed to Saudi Arabia under an agreement signed in 1934. Yemen, which claims the provinces, says the accord expired in 1992.

Saudi-Yemeni relations soured following Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, when Yemeni leaders voiced support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Al-Iryani said the next round of bilateral talks on the border problem would be held in Riyadh around May 20.

Prince Addresses University Officers, Notes on Iranians

LD0205094294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 1 May (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, made a press statement following the graduation ceremony of the 23rd batch of university officers. After congratulating the new graduates, he said: "I hope they they will be at the level of our expectations, and be true security men and represent security in the Kingdom to the best of their abilities—this security that stems first and foremost from our religion, and from our total respect for the citizen and the resident in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." [passage omitted]

Regarding a question on preparations for marches like the Iranian march or for matters that go against the teachings of religions, the interior minister said: "In any case, I have heard such talk and read such reports. The Iranians have said that they will carry out such acts, and we say no, they will not be allowed to do so. Pilgrimage has its particular rites enjoyed by every Muslim. As for this matter, they know very well that it will not happen. They have been informed of this decision, and such acts will not be allowed to happen."

Responding to a question on reports carried by the Iranian media stating that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is trying to obstruct the march of the Iranian pilgrims; and how does his royal highness perceive the motives behind such campaigns, he said: "Are we really interested in words, or are we interested in reality? Let us talk about reality and see what is happening; it is reality that determines such matters."

Answering a question on the organizational aspect of pilgrims in the Kingdom, be they Saudis or residents, his royal highness indicated that the organization is always carried out by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and it always strives to organize these matters. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Wrapup of Reports on Country's Political 'Crisis'

Egyptian Envoy Departs 26 Apr

JN2604144394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Brother Badr Hammam, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's envoy and assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, left Sanaa today following a visit of several days to our country, during which he held talks with a number of officials within the framework of Egypt's efforts to settle the political crisis and safeguard unity. [passage omitted]

GPC Urges Unity, Democracy

JN2804134594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2016 GMT 27 Apr 94

["Text" of statement issued by the General Committee of the General People's Congress on the first anniversary of the 27 April 1993 Yemeni parliamentary elections; dated 26 April]

[Text] Today, Wednesday, is the first anniversary of the legendary legislative elections held by our great Yemeni people on 27 April 1993. On that day, they realized an unprecedented historic achievement. They accomplished the greatest and most fundamental democratic and strategic mission along the road to a united Yemen, and toward establishing the foundations of its shura-inspired and democratic system of government on the basis of political pluralism and a multiparty system, and in accordance with the principle of universal suffrage, and direct and secret balloting. This sought to consecrate the principle of popular participation, as well as the peaceful and democratic exchange of authority.

Our people have accomplished this great mission with matchless success, and in an honorable democratic competition, the fairness of which was attested to by all fraternal and friendly parties which closely watched the [words indistinct] elections. Thus, our people managed to occupy their special position among all peoples of the civilized community of nations in the course of efforts to build a democratic community on the basis of free choice, as well as peaceful and democratic competition. By so doing, our people demonstrated that there was no longer any room within their ranks for any form of tyranny, (?parochialism), or tribalism, which could rehabilitate the imamate regime, colonial rule, and the humiliating partitioning, particularly since the injustice and darkness of these worn-out totalitarian systems of government have been cast away by time, and brushed aside by the winds of change and transformation.

On this occasion, the General People's Congress [GPC] appeals to all Yemeni national forces [words indistinct] to reiterate their commitment to the democratic course being pursued by our people and our unified state. Since the inception of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990, the GPC has sought to epitomize this course in order to set a splendid example in terms of respect for and compliance with this course for other national parties and political organizations. It has been doing so by democratizing its action programs.

There is no denying that the GPC has encountered several difficulties along this road since the beginning of the transitional period on 22 May. Nonetheless, the GPC was careful not to allow these difficulties to become an excuse for abandoning this course, or for revoking its commitment to hold the elections in order to enable the people to cast their votes and to make their choices through the election of their representatives to the first elected legislative body. Given all this, the GPC has spared no effort to do all that could have been done to convince others of the need to promote the march of unity and democracy to help implement the constitution of a unified Yemen, which was approved in a national referendum, so that Yemen may establish its political system on the basis of the constitutional legitimacy gained through direct and free elections.

In this regard, there is no need to explain the efforts the GPC has made, or to detail the extensive dialogues and meetings it has held, or even to the moves it has made to safeguard the dignity of all sides, particularly [words indistinct] to reassure them, and help them overcome the fears they had about their future in the context of the political pluralism of united Yemen. The strongest evidence of this was the fact that the GPC leadership and bodies expressed a willingness to merge with the YSP so the two parties could share the same destiny and fate, not to mention that the GPC proposed other formulas for [words indistinct] alliance with the (?YSP). However, all these proposals have not, regrettably, met with any measure of favorable response or understanding. There is no doubt that our people are well aware that our partners in the unity deal actually agreed to take part in the elections only after the GPC had provided them with guarantees, made concessions to them, and demonstrated goodwill toward them.

When the elections were held under the close scrutiny and observation of Arabs and international agencies, those who supervised the election process had no doubts at all about the fairness and honesty of the elections. Although some undemocratic practices were committed by some people during their election campaigns and the balloting process, the overall election process earned the admiration and appreciation of the entire world community.

It never dawned on the GPC that its landslide victory in these elections would provoke the grudges of some parties, particularly in the aftermath of the emergence of the Yemeni Reform Grouping as a major political force in the country.

Out of a desire to ward off some of the consequences of this development, the GPC gave up some of its constitutional rights to safeguard and promote national unity. Consequently, it [words indistinct] with the YSP and the Yemeni Reform Grouping in a national government coalition that epitomized the spirit of sharing the burdens of national responsibilities. It also agreed that the prime minister of this coalition government would be a YSP official, and the speaker of the parliament [words indistinct]. Moreover, the GPC gave up a third seat it was entitled to hold on the Presidential Council [words indistinct) to be agreed upon and approved by the House of Representatives. Once the agreements regarding these amendments were signed, the GPC, just like other national forces and organizations, as well as all local, Arab, and international quarters, were surprised by the return of YSP Secretary General brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid from [words indistinct] homeland to the city of Aden. By his action, he refrained from taking the constitutional oath as vice president. He made this move to avoid assuming his duties within the Presidential Council. Since then, he has been in a new seclusion, the aim of which is to preclude the endorsement of these agreements, obstruct the work of state institutions, and flagrantly undermine the results of the elections held on 27 April, not to mention other serious practices and transgressions that are jeopardizing and prejudicing the unity of the homeland.

We should also recall the desperate and flagrant attempts being made by some renegade and separatist forces to misrepresent facts in order to cover up for their positions, which are diametrically opposed to the results of the general parliamentary elections. These forces are demonstrating indifference to and boastful disregard for the people's will, decisions, and unionist and democratic choices, which they made on two occasions: First when they headed for polling stations to vote in favor of the draft Constitution of unified Yemen, and then when they headed for polling stations to elect their representatives to their legislative branch of government. It is peculiar that some of these isolationist leaders have relished this crisis. They do not have any sense of shame, any conscientiousness, or any honorable [words indistinct] that could deter them from proceeding with their efforts to mislead the public, deceive citizens, and promote their false allegations, which aim to tarnish the image of the historic accomplishment made by our people on 27 April 1993. These forces also seek to obstruct the determined efforts of [words indistinct] our homeland to promote its unity and build its democratic political system of government, oblivious to the fact that these reckless attempts will always fail to undermine the people's awareness. Likewise, they will not make us budge a hairbreadth from our positions and democratic course, which we chose and adopted when the Republic of Yemen came into being on 22 May 1990.

On the first anniversary of the general parliamentary elections, the GPC would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the masses of our Yemeni people, who forged the 27 April victory, in which the eternal [words indistinct] vindicated their democratic option, their will, and their strong and unswayable faith in the unity of the homeland. Similarly, the GPC would like to reiterate its firm commitment to respecting our people's constants with regard to unity and democracy. Likewise, it reiterates its adherence to its legitimate constitutional right to defend all the gains [words indistinct] of our masses. It announces once again its firm convictions that any solution to the current impasse in the country should not undermine any of the sacred historical national constants cherished by our people, chief among which are the following: Compliance with the Constitution of unified Yemen, the only text that enjoyed national consensus; the activation of the legitimate elected bodies, headed by the House of Representatives; the holding of meetings by the state's leading institutions so they may perform their duties; expediting the full implementation of the accord document; and ending once and for all military, political, and media repercussions of the crisis.

The GPC would like to reiterate that these constants are the only tenets that can safeguard our people's unity, democratic option, and eternal revolution.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.
[Signed] The GPC
[Dated] 26 April 1994

House Speaker, YRG Leader Comment

PM2804153094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p2

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Hammud Munsir in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Munsir] Although more than two months have elapsed since the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document, the crisis has seen nothing but further escalation and dispute, and the accord still has not been implemented. Why?

[Al-Ahmar] I believe that the brothers in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] are responsible for the continuation of the crisis, especially over the document. Because after the signing, all officials were supposed to return to their work in Sanaa, whether in the Presidential Council, the Council of Ministers, or any other institution, so that all bodies could perform their official duties, and in order to implement the document. But regrettably, they began to flee from Amman.

[Munsir] Would you call that a rebellion?

[Al-Ahmar] Undoubtedly the position of some YSP leaders has been considered a rebellion since the crisis began. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] Did your signing of the document mean the end of your reservations about it?

[Al-Ahmar] The reservations still stand but it does not mean that we reject the document as a whole. We have reservations about some points in it until an understanding is reached on them.

[Munsir] Can you specify some of these points?

[Al-Ahmar] They are known to and understood by everyone. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] Who is behind the military tension and clashes that took place in Abyan, Harf Sufyan, Shabwah, and Ma'rib?

[Al-Ahmar] When there is a crisis or a dispute between two forces, two parties, or even two states or tribes, complications are bound to emerge, whether through someone's actions or as a result of psychological tensions leading to that.

[Munsir] But it was noted that the clashes occurred after the document was signed and then escalated in an unprecedented manner. Do you believe forces opposed to the document were behind these military developments?

[Al-Ahmar] That is not ruled out. I believe that that action was designed to abort the signing of the document. On that day it was said that the YSP had sent military reinforcements from Aden to Abyan, violating the decisions of the dialogue committee, the Presidential Council, and the House of Representatives and the military committee's instructions.

[Munsir] The YSP persists in accusing what it terms the "influential military family in Sanaa" and influential forces or elements in the General People's Congress [GPC], and sometimes a third party—apparently a reference to the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]—of being behind these attempts and explosions. What is your opinion?

[Al-Ahmar] These accusations are absolutely untrue. The YSP represents half of the authority, and it is now demanding that others implement the document, even though its implementation requires a unified political will.

[Munsir] The YSP moved a step ahead of you at the foreign level. Its leaders intensified their visits to most Arab states, especially in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. It was said at the time that the YSP was occupying your traditional positions at the regional level. How do you view and what is your position on these visits?

[Al-Ahmar] The visits the YSP paid to fraternal states, near and far, are illegitimate moves which prompted the people to see them as separatist moves aimed at separation. This is the people's interpretation and opinion. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] YSP leaders have said that there is a "political Islam" scheme or a "fundamentalist scheme" obstructing the national democratic unionist plan. Some people interpret this as a clear reference to the YRG. What truth is there in reports of the existence of extremist fundamentalist elements in Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] I am surprised by the allegations of the YSP and those helping it to promote these lies. I am also surprised that the Egyptian brothers should listen to these lies and believe them, hence viewing us as they view Islamic groups in some Arab states.

We in Yemen are a Muslim people. We do not have religious or ethnic minorities among us. Since the dawn of history Yemen has been ruled by the Islamic Shari'ah, which is dominant and the basis on which Yemeni cases are settled, including political, commercial, and other cases. Thus there is nothing to prompt the Yemeni people or any religious group or element to resort to violence in order to demand what Islamic parties in Egypt or elsewhere are demanding—the application of the Shari'ah. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] The YSP accused YRG militias of fighting alongside the al-'Amaliqah forces in the clashes that occurred in Abyan. What truth is there in these accusations?

[Al-Ahmar] The YRG has no militias. It is a phrase they level at any cadres or elements capable of carrying weapons and defending themselves. YRG "cadres" in Abyan defended themselves with their own arms. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] What have Arab mediations achieved so far with regard to achieving a solution to the crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] We in the YRG reject any Arab, foreign, or even Yemeni mediation that proposes any initiatives or solutions outside what is mentioned in the Pledge and Accord Document. We are working to reinforce and safeguard unity. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] There have been reports that delegations from hard-line movements, including the Muslim Brotherhood International Organization and the National Islamic Front led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, arrived in Sanaa recently, and that they met with YRG and GPC officials with a view to setting up an Islamic alliance in Sanaa to confront a "secular" south Yemen-Egyptian alliance. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Ahmar] That is a lie and absolutely untrue. No delegations from Arab or non-Arab Islamic organizations have arrived in Yemen. If a delegation visits us, we do not receive it secretly, because we do not consider that a conspiracy or something to be ashamed of.

We will warmly, publicly, and fraternally receive any Islamic delegation that visits us. It is an honor for us to be visited by an Islamic preacher from any Arab or Islamic state, because we in Yemen are a Muslim people. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] There have been numerous reports of the existence of camps in Yemen to train terrorists, and a committee has been formed recently to investigate the matter. What truth is there in this, and what does it mean to you as an Islamic party?

[Al-Ahmar] Before the committee comes back with its report, I say that that is untrue and merely a lie. There is nothing to prompt the Yemenis to resort to setting up camps to train people in the use of arms. All Yemenis carry and are trained in the use of arms, hence there is no need to set up secret camps. [passage omitted]

Ministry Refutes 28 Apr Radio Statement

EA2904202994 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] An official source at the Defense Ministry, commenting on the so-called statement of the military official at the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff command which was transmitted by Channel One in Sanaa on 28 April said: The Defense Ministry affirms that this statement was not issued by it and did not represent its opinion and that the statement was totally incorrect and had tried to change the facts upside down. It had tried in vain to place responsibility for the explosion of the situation in 'Imran on whom it referred to as saboteurs and secessionist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party. The official source declined to answer this statement but the reality has already been made clear by the official source of the Defense Ministry last Wednesday [27 April]. This fact is well-known by those who were burned by the fire of this sedition which was sparked off by the adventurous military command in Sanaa, the people of 'Imran and the members of the military commission who were present then at 'Imran Camp.

The statement added that the endeavors by the president and other officials in Sanaa to contain the position was totally not based on reality and that the appeals made by the defense minister to stop the military offensive against the 3d Armored Brigade had not been seriously dealt with.

The official source said that the ruling military circle in Sanaa had launched considerable forces equipped with various arms to attack the 3d Brigade without giving regard to the members of this brigade and the peaceful people of 'Imran. It also did not allow the evacuation of the wounded and did not treat them as prisoners of war but tortured them and interrogated them by the security bodies.

The source appealed to the public opinion, the military commission, and the fact-finding commission which was formed by the House of Deputies and human rights organizations to interfere in this inhuman conduct which contradicts with the morals of our Yemeni people.

AFP: Danger of Further Clashes 'Eased'

NC2904152994 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, April 29 (AFP)—The danger of further bloody clashes between rival Yemeni troops eased Friday [29 April] after a southern armoured brigade retreated to the mountains around 'Imran north of Sanaa, scene of fierce tank battles which left more than 100 dead.

Military officials of the Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) said the 1,200 troops pulled out after reinforcements of northern troops, including elite Republican Guards, arrived at 'Imran, 60 kilometers (37 miles) north of Sanaa.

Yemeni journalists who visited the scene said the northern troops gained the upper hand in the fighting which began on Wednesday, and the southern forces sought refuge with an allied tribe, the Bakil.

YSP officials described the southern forces' retreat as a "brilliant tactical manoeuvre," which avoided unnecessary casualties.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih blamed south Yemeni "secessionists" for the fighting, which also left 200 people injured, and warned them to halt the provocations.

The official SABA' news agency said Salih, visiting northern troops wounded in the clashes, appealed to the southerners "to see reason and to adopt peaceful dialogue as a means of resolving differences."

A pro-YSP newspaper, October 14, said Friday northern troops based in the south were reinforcing their positions.

"The (northern) al-'Amaliqah brigade is stocking up with weapons and ammunition in order to tighten its grip on Abyan province and a key point commanding eastern the gateway to Aden," the paper said. [passage omitted]

Southern Troops Accused of 'Escalating' Tension

NC2904191094 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, April 29 (AFP)—The authorities in northern Yemen Friday accused southern troops of leaving a camp south of Sanaa and escalating tension following fierce tank battles which left more than 100 dead.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) said a southern brigade had deployed in the Dhamar region, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Sanaa, on the orders of the GPC's southern rival, the Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

The GPC said it feared "more widespread clashes" between rival northern and southern forces.

A military mediation committee was trying to "persuade the commanders of the Ba'Sahib brigade to return to their camp and eliminate military tension in the Dhamar region," the GPC said.

On April 6 the GPC accused the same brigade of shelling official buildings, including Republican Guard and police headquarters, in the Dhamar region.

YSP military officials said Friday a southern armoured brigade had retreated to the mountains around 'Imran north of Sanaa, following the latest fighting.

The officials said the 1,200 troops pulled out after reinforcements of northern troops, including elite Republican Guards, arrived at 'Imran, 60 kilometres (37 miles) north of Sanaa.

Yemeni journalists who visited the scene said the northern troops gained the upper hand in the fighting, and the southern forces sought refuge with an allied tribe, the Bakil.

The GPC said searches were under way for Colonel Sayf al-Baqri, commander of the southern armoured brigade held responsible for the bloody clashes in 'Imran. [passage omitted]

Renewed Fighting Reported in 'Imran

EA2904203594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] This morning the criminal acts perpetrated by units of the Presidential Guard, central security, and gangs of tribes loyal to the ruling military family in Sanaa have been renewed against units of the 3d Armored Brigade which had succeeded on the afternoon of 27 April in absorbing the first treacherous offensive strike, deploying to thwart the attacks and moving to defensive positions. This enabled the brigade to stay steadfast, thanks to God's support, the high morale and fighting spirit of the men of the brigade, as well as the experience of its command, the support of the patriotic tribes and the inhabitants of 'Imran against whom strikes by forces of the adventurist military family were also directed.

Units of the 3d Armored Brigade are continuing courageously and with responsible steadfastness to resist the forces of treachery and treason [words indistinct].

Further on Renewed Fighting

AB3004153394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Units of the 3d Armored Brigad continue to courageously and steadfastly resist the forces of treachery and treason—the murderous and (?terroristic) gang raised under the protection of the ruling authority in Sanaa. Brigade soldiers, together with the inhabitants of 'Imran, taught the adventurist gang a serious lesson. They proved that the people's resolve was invincible, and that the person who plays with fire will be the first one burned. This gang, which brags of imaginary victories achieved through its hired mercenaries, is ashamed to tell the truth, which is known by the sons of valiant 'Imran, who saw how the 3d Armored Brigade confronted the forces of defeatism and made them taste their evil in broad daylight. While we are saddened and regret the human and material losses suffered by the two sides, at the same time we hold those hired commanders of the ruling gang in Sanaa responsible, before our people and their armed forces, and before local, Arab and world public opinion, for the crimes they have perpetrated, as well as for any conflagration—in which the greatest losers will be the Yemeni people, who have been patient for a long time. However, there are limits to patience. The Defense Ministry, which strove and is striving to prevent the situation from exploding, renews its appeal for an end to all criminal acts of combat against the units of the 3d Armored Brigade and innocent citizens, and for an end to the siege against these units as well, which would guarantee an evacuation of the wounded and the delivery of supplies.

In this context, we call on international bodies and organizations, particularly those concerned with defending human rights, including the Yemeni Red Crescent, the Arab Red Crescent organizations and the International Red Cross, to carry out their humanitarian duties towards our brothers and sons in the 3d Armored Brigade, who are in danger of being annihilated by the ruling gang and its myrmidons.

The Defense Ministry again warns against the consequences of continuing to play with fire and fanning the flames of a crushing civil war throughout the homeland. We are confident that our people and their Armed Forces, and all the honorable nationalist forces for whom the homeland and its sons are dear, will not stand aside as onlookers in the face of the danger that threatens the homeland and its unity.

Confrontations Enter 'Serious Stage'

PM2904112694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah, Lutfi Shatarah, Hammud Munsir, and Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Southern Forces Prepare To Launch Revenge Attack After 100 People Are Killed in 'Imran Fighting"]

[Excerpts] London, Sanaa, Damascus—Military confrontations between northern and southern forces in Yemen entered a serious stage yesterday after more than 100 people were killed from the two sides, among them 20 civilians, and 200 wounded, and after forces moved from northern and southern camps and set up posts in the areas adjacent to their camps. A state of maximum alert has been announced among southern forces in Aden, including the air force, in what has been described as preparation for launching a revenge attack within 24 hours.

The security situation has become more serious following the attempt in Sanaa to assassinate Dr. Hasan Makki, first deputy prime minister and member of the General People Congress [GPC] General Secretariat (political bureau). [passage omitted]

At the military level, Yemeni sources said that the continuing tank battles between northern and southern forces in 'Imran, north of the capital, Sanaa, presage an expansion of the fighting to all Yemeni governorates, especially as military reports confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the forces present in all northern and southern camps in the former fringes area have moved from their barracks and set up posts in the areas adjacent to their camps.

Authoritative sources in Aden have said that all camps in the city, including the air force, are on maximum alert.

The sources expect southern forces to launch a revenge attack within the coming 24 hours on northern forces in some southern governorates. The sources accused Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of "wanting to eliminate the southern brigades stationed in the north. So it is difficult to return the northern forces based in the south peacefully." [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday former South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad urged the political leadership and conflicting Yemeni parties to take steps to quickly contain the crisis and stop the explosion which could lead to disastrous consequences. He said: The political leadership must stop evading the crushing crisis Yemen is experiencing.

He also said: The fighting that broke out among comrades in arms is unjustifiable, because there can be no victors in this fighting.

President 'Ali Nasir appealed to the Armed Forces "not to aim their weapons against one another, in order to spare blood and keep the Armed Forces strong and coherent so they can protect and safeguard the homeland." He urged all parties to adhere to the Pledge and Accord Document.

Former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed that the solution to this crisis should be Yemeni and that others' task should be to help only. President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad revealed an initiative he submitted recently to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, saying that this initiative can form a prelude to a dialogue and breakthrough in the Yemeni situation.

The former president praised Arab efforts, especially those being made by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates and some other Arab brothers. He said: Everyone in Yemen is responsible for this conflict; no one can be cleared. And they must rescue Yemen and the Yemeni people.

Al-Bid, Mubarak Envoy Meet 29 Apr

JN2904201994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, tonight in Aden received brother Ambassador Badr Hammam, Egyptian assistant foreign minister and envoy of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who conveyed to him a message from his brother President Mubarak dealing with current developments, and the Egyptian leadership's concern about the escalation of these developments, and efforts to contain the crisis.

The meeting was attended by brothers Muhammad Salih Qutaysh, acting undersecretary at the foreign ministry—Aden branch, and 'Ata Harun, the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in our country.

Al-Bid Telephones Deputy Prime Minister

JN2904201594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Vice President brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid yesterday held a telephone conversation with First Deputy Prime Minister brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki to reassure himself about Makki's health in the aftermath of the sinful attempt on his life yesterday afternoon. He wished him speedy recovery.

In a related development, brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has sent a cable to First Deputy Prime Minister brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, in which he expressed his condemnation of the sinful incident to which Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki has been exposed. He wished him recovery.

YSP Political Bureau Meets

EA0105173594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Statement issued by the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau in Aden on 29 April]

[Text] The political bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] held a meeting on 29 April under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Presidential Council. The meeting considered new developments in Yemen in the wake of the deplorable military incidents which occurred between the 1st Brigade and the 3d Brigade in 'Imran on 27 April.

The political bureau pointed out, in light of the information and data available to it, that the battles in 'Imran began with an organized, planned, and premeditated attack by 1st Armored Brigade forces from the 1st Armored Division. The attack was supported by Republican Guard forces, central security troops, and some tribal groups. The 3d Brigade was compelled to respond to the treacherous attack. These deplorable, bloody battles led to heavy material and human losses in all units engaged in the fighting. The victims were innocent soldiers, sons of the one Yemen, men from the same Yemeni Armed Forces. What made the situation more atrocious was the unethical and unpatriotic conduct towards the wounded on the part of the 3d Brigade. The wounded troops were forced into cells and interrogated—many were tortured while they were still bleeding. These stupid acts affected some members of the military commission, in particular the detention and provocation of our brother Colonel 'Ali Naji Ubayd, a member of the military commission and director of the defense minister's office, who was in 'Imran as part of a military commission that was attempting to calm the situation before it exploded.

He, along with his brother members from the military commission, have made tireless and mighty efforts to preserve and secure the Armed Forces and indeed, the entire homeland, against disastrous internecine warfare and destruction. The matter did not end there. The positions of the 1st Brigade were strengthened with new brigades from the Republican Guards and the 1st Division, with the aim of continuing the attack and besieging 3d Brigade positions. At the same time there were intensive troop concentrations and reinforcements sent to confront the Ba Suhayb Brigade, the 1st Artillery Brigade at Yarim, and the 14th Brigade at al-Qama. They were also positioned opposite al-Bayda, Mukayras, Ma'rib and Shabwah.

The political bureau linked the events at 'Imran, the concentration of troops, and the new military reinforcements, to events like the incidents at Abyan and Harf Sufyan, the aggression against the Ba Suhayb Brigade in Dhamar, and the threats and assassinations of members of the YSP in the northern governorates. The movements of these party members were monitored and their names written down on lists that were prepared as a prelude to the assassinations. There were attempts to close the headquarters of the party, such as that witnessed in the Governorate of Hajjah.

The political bureau also linked this series of military activities to the stupid, hysterical, propagandist, and patched-up media campaigns waged by the media of the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Alliance for Reform, against the YSP and other patriotic parties.

These campaigns climaxed in a speech by the chairman of the Presidential Council and the secretary general of the General People's Congress on 27 April. The political bureau said the president's speech was tantamount to a declaration of war. Worse still, it was clear political and media preparation (?to justify) the military attack against the 3d Brigade in 'Imran, which occurred a few hours after the speech. The president's speech blasted all the (?objectives) and concepts [word indistinct] of national consensus, as well as the pledge and accord document. It was characterized fabrications [word indistinct] and abuse against the YSP, the other patriotic parties, and the dialogue commission. The speech also contained repugnant words and expressions which reason cannot countenance as emanating directly from the president.

The political bureau stressed that the series of military incidents and the escalation of media and political campaigns were integral components of the same scenario [preceding word in English] and design whose fundamental objective was to abort the pledge and accord document, paralyze national unanimity, and abort the activities of the dialogue commission, the military commission, and the meetings of the Council of Ministers, besides hindering all internal patriotic efforts. These incidents are also intended to hinder Arab and international efforts to tackle the crisis on nationalistic and democratic grounds, and on the grounds created by the pledge and accord document.

This design also aims to kill democracy in its cradle, harming national unity and adopting the methods of political annexation [ilhaq] and hegemony, while entrenching autocracy and oligarchy at the expense of the higher interests of the people and the homeland. It also aims to kindle the flames of civil strife, and finally to drive the country towards a destructive and [word indistinct] civil war which will destroy everything, and threaten the homeland's unity and the people's gains and achievements.

The YSP began as a unionist party from the inception of its factions in the early 50's, and admirably fought the battles of the national and social struggle for liberation and unity against the rule of the imamate and colonialism. It gave up many martyrs for the cause of the Yemeni revolutions of September and October. It was behind the raising of the banner of unity, and was at the vanguard to achieve unity on 22 May, 1990. It proposed democratic dialogue from the beginning as a fundamental course for the development of Yemen's social political system. The party espoused the slogan of reform, and was the first to call for national dialogue [word indistinct] with the other parties to conclude the pledge and accord document. The party's glorious achievements and great historical record truly outweigh these rabid attempts, which vainly attempt to damage its history and patriotic symbols, and to distort its national and social objectives. The YSP can only stand with the people. It will pursue no other path except that of unity, democracy and national consensus.

That was how it lived in the past with the people, that is how it is at the present—it will not be otherwise in the future. Those who are swimming against the current of the times and who are inclined to think of and return to the past, are the same ones who pride themselves on past struggles and on an honorable and brilliant past. But they are the same ones who [words indistinct] the use of the pistol and terrorism [words indistinct]. They are the same ones who still talk about the interests of the homeland and the people from the very narrow corner of their tribal and (?clannish) interests.

The YSP political bureau condemns all military acts of aggression, and calls for stopping this deterioration immediately. It also wishes to confirm the importance of the following essential issues:

1. Stopping the deterioration of the situation and the military build-up, because of the danger this poses to the people and the homeland; releasing the men of the 3d Brigade and stopping reinforcements and the military build-up against the 3d Brigade, the 14th Brigade, and the Ba Suhyab Brigade; (?removing) the military reinforcements confronting al-Bayda, Abyan, Shabwah, and Ma'rib. There should be an immediate investigation into the 'Imran events and other military incidents preceding it. The results of that investigation should be made public. Theos sides which are shown to be linked to increasing tensions and engaging in military incidents should be called to account. There should be a swift end to the clashes between the brigades.

2. Swiftly implementing the pledge and accord document and commencing upon those tasks connected with military security aspects, due to their importance in preventing war. There should be planning and preparation for a secure atmosphere in which to implement the document. The brigades should withdraw all the Armed Forces from the places which used to be called border areas [atraf] and particularly from the governorates of Ta'izz, Laj, Ibb, Abyan, Shabwah, al-Bayda and Ma'rib. Forces should be withdrawn from towns, above all from Sanaa and Aden, and the terrorist camps should be closed down. Military and security forces should be redeployed and (?restationed), in accordance with the stipulations of the pledge and accord document.

3. The dialogue commission should draw up and publish a timetable for implementing every task in the document. The commission should assume responsibility for following up and supervising these efforts. The commission should make public the implementation's outcome at every step. It should publicly condemn any side which behaves in a dilatory manner in the implementation of the document. The dialogue commission ought to fully undertake the role set out for it in the document. The party rejects any attempt to marginalize the role of the dialogue commission. The political bureau calls for the return of the two brothers, Sinan Abu-Luhum and Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, to exercise their tasks in the dialogue commission, as they have a history of patriotism and prominent contribution to the national dialogue within the framework of the dialogue commission.

4. The dialogue commission should be vested with responsibility for supervising the management of the news media, and should be given the right to suspend any media programs or activities which contradict the spirit of the pledge and accord document, or which contribute to deepening the crisis and inciting civil strife.

5. The political bureau calls on all patriotic parties and social organizations, as well as all groups of people such as workers, merchants, peasants, tribesmen and owners of national capital, in addition to intellectuals, religious men, students, and the security and armed forces, to rally their ranks to contribute positively and effectively to preserving the union and democracy, to reject war and internecine fighting, and to demand the implementation of the pledge and accord document. The party supports holding public sit-ins as a peaceful, democratic and cultural approach for expressing the opinion of the masses. It rejects any attempt to sabotage or hire the masses to serve selfish or narrow group interests. Sparking off war should be prevented. The implementation of the consensus of national unanimity will be linked to the effectiveness of the time-honored, patriotic and public accord.

6. The political bureau expresses appreciation for the role of brothers and friends in containing the current crisis and their assistance in tackling it with peace and democracy.

The political bureau welcomes the continuation of these efforts to ensure concerted internal and external efforts towards overcoming the crisis, preserving unity and democracy and implementing the pledge and accord document so as to ensure security and stability in Yemen and in the region generally.

Issued by the YSP Political Bureau, Aden.
[Dated] 29 April 1994.

Bureau Issues Statement

EA0105205494 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Statement issued by the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau; place and date not given]

[Text] The political bureau has been following with great concern the insistence by influential military forces in Sanaa of continuing the military crime in 'Imran, and in all of Yemen, to escalate military tension. These influential forces, up to the issuance of this statement, continue to amass large forces to besiege and strike at the 3d Armored Brigade and heroic citizens from among the sons of the people of Jabal Iyal, Yazid, Iyal Sarih, Sufyan, Arhab, Bani Abd, and other honorable citizens.

The 3d Armored Battalion moved to new positions in the Sanaa Governorate, and was subjected to barbarous and treacherous aggression by the 1st Armored Brigade, Republican Guard forces, and central security and tribal forces, which were transported to 'Imran from other areas a few hours before the military conflict, which was led by such warmongers as Humud Atif and Ali Hamid Qulaydan. These forces were not satisfied with imposing an intensive siege on the new positions to which the 3d Armored Brigade had moved, but prevented the passage of food and medical supplies, as well as the transport of the dead and wounded to the hospitals. Indeed, they went further in their violations of human rights and the genuine ideals and norms of our Yemen people by throwing the wounded into prison and subjecting them to torture. They were treated as if they were POW's from a foreign army—not the sons of the same homeland. This irresponsible stance by the ruling military family reached its peak when it left the wounded to die on the battlefields.

The military family provided aid only for certain wounded persons—this is the expression of an abominable secessionist trend. More atrocious than this was that the representatives of the ruling military family supervised the dragging of the wounded as POW's to central security cells, where they were tortured while interrogated. This is a cheap game they play for the media, without any conscience or moral restraint.

There is no doubt that giving orders to strike at the 3d Brigade was tantamount to a declaration of civil war, which was issued by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, frankly and clearly, on 27 April, prior to the military conflict in 'Imran. This was the same day that aggression was committed against the 3d Armored Brigade in 'Imran, as part of a military and political plan by the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Alliance for Reform, and the ruling military family. The aggression was committed two hours after the war declaration was delivered by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the secretary general of the General People's Congress. It is now clear that the plan is aimed at emptying the northern governorates of the brigades which moved there after the declared union of north and south Yemen, and at their bloody liquidation by dealing with them one at a time in a gradual manner. This has been done by contriving many different, flimsy justifications as a prelude to engagement in an overall war, a war planned by fundamentalist forces in the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Alliance for Reform, in addition to external fundamentalist forces, and with the support of the ruling military family in Sanaa.

It is now confirmed that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is the one who is personally commanding this grave military action from the operations room. It is he who is issuing directives to pursue the 3d Brigade and liquidate it, after having given orders for striking and annihilating it. He has been leaking misleading information to the international news media about the annihilation of the 3d Brigade during the incident, to cover his pursuit of the heroes of the brigade as they moved to to new positions. It is he who is personally supervising ongoing preparations to strike the Ba Suhayb Brigade in Dhamar, as well as the build-up of reinforcements around it, and the besieging of that brigade by Republican Guard and central security brigades, along with the assistance from battalions from the Majd Brigade, which was moved from Bajil in the Hudaydah Governorate.

The 3d Brigade faced with rare heroism the atrocious conspiracy and the loathsome crime to which it was subjected. It managed to withdraw outside its camp after its stores and ammunitions, as well as a part of its forces, had been destroyed. Had President Ali Salih been a unionist and responsible for all the people, in accordance with the oath he took before the House of Deputies, in the name of God Almighty, to bear his responsibility with honesty—had the president been so, it was in his power, while commanding and directing the battle personally, to work for the preservation of what was left of the 1st and 3d Brigades. However, he gave orders for the pursuit of the 3d Brigade, with the aim of annihilating it. He pushed two brigades from the Republican Guards and central security forces, under the command of his brothers, in addition to other warmongers such as Sheikh Humud Atif and Sheikh Ali Hamid Qulaydan, to pursue the brigade after it was cut off from food supplies, fuel and water.

We appeal to public opinion; human rights organizations; the Yemeni, Arab and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and to all those with living human consciences to provide essential and urgent assistance to save the wounded, remove the dead, and stop the horrific actions to which the wounded are being subjected in the prisons of the ruling military family.

This crime indicates that those who are managing and implementing this operation, bit by bit, do not care about sacrificing everyone to stay in power. This confirms what President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said in Amman, that he was ready to wage war and sacrifice 30,000 soldiers to liquidate the YSP. What is being prepared and planned now must be regarded as part of a bloody and horrible venture, which is likely to inflict great harm on the unity of the homeland, its security, and stability. Indications of the start of the implementation of this reckless venture appeared in a political statement issued personally by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in a speech he delivered in the Sab'in ground on 27 April. It included attacks which were inappropriate from a head of state against a party which is his partner in power, and against opposition parties and the dialogue commission which [word indistinct] that great historical and national achievement reflected in the pledge and accord document.

The president was not satisfied with that only, but was keen to include in his speech an open call to spark off a civil war, and issue a fatwa for a jihad, similar to the fatwas issued by heads of terrorist organizations to justify their acts of murder and assissinations. The speech called on every individual to make himself a judge, a prosecutor general, and the president of a court. This indicates a desire to undermine the constitutional and legal foundations of the unified state and open the door to anarchy, terrorism, and civil war as an excuse for secession.

The YSP, as it is part of the masses of our people and its political parties and its vital forces, expresses its deep concern over the insistence of the ruling military family in Sanaa to spark off of a civil war in Yemen. It holds responsible those adventurist forces. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih must bear full and personal responsibility for what has happened, and continues to happen with regard to the shedding of the blood of the Yemeni Armed Forces and the threatening of the unity of the homeland, since orders were issued to part of the Yemeni Army to strike at another part of the same army. This is unethical and unpatriotic, and we cannot remain silent about it. It is difficult for the people to understand the legitimacy about which General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was talking. It is also difficult for all of us to understand the unity which they speak about so flippantly, while they direct their treacherous artillery against it.

The statement, leaked to the news media by the ruling military family and its puppets concerning the pursuit of the commander of the 3d Armored Brigade, the heroic Colonel (Sayf al- Bakri) and the militant brother Yahya Dahis, is a disgraceful act indicating the bankruptcy of its authors. It is an attempt to get a cover for the justification of the massacres. The adventurers in Sanaa are planning to continue the attack on the 3d Armored Brigade at its new positions north of Sanaa. Those who issued these orders should be ashamed of themselves. The commander of the brigade, accused by the ruling family of having given orders to the 3d Brigade, was taking his lunch in a mess with members of the joint military commission in the presence of the U.S. and French military attaches and a number of officers of the brigade. Brother Yahya Dahis was not even present at the camp. The commander of the brigade was surprised by the explosion inside the camp, as was the joint military commission.

We can say with all confidence that those who should be put on trial are the adventurers who issued orders to start the implementation of the extermination plan and above all the civil war. The criminal and engineer of terror, murder and assassination, is Col. Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, who began the implementation of the first phase of this war when he struck the unarmed 5th Brigade at Harf Sufyan. He then continued his war against the 3d Brigade.

He may continue it in a different phase tomorrow and in a different place in the northern governorates and face units moving towards southern governorates.

The attack against the 3d Brigade is a detestable crime which will not pass away easily and the insistence on besieging and pursuit of this brigade, aimed at annihilating it, will also not pass away easily. Because that means the launching of total civil war, whose responsibility and aftermath will rest on those adventurous secessionists. The spokesman stressed that true unity is the unity being manifested today in its various aspects, insofar as the heroes of the 3d Armored Brigade are joining together with hundreds of thousands of the heroes of the al-Sanadid tribe in the areas to which the brigade's positions have been moved, and where it was welcomed in a brotherly, nationalistic and unionist manner. Those heroes who are coming together today as one are the true unionists, while those adventurists implementing the plot to detonate civil war in Yemen [words indistinct] are the true secessionists.

Egyptian Envoy, Council Member View 'Crisis'

JN3004173594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council member, this afternoon received brother Ambassador Badr Hammam, the Egyptian assistant foreign minister, who is visiting our country. The ambassador reported on his talks in the economic and commercial capital Aden, within the framework of Egypt's brotherly efforts to contain the current crisis. His talks dealt with the latest developments in the crisis and how further complications can be averted. Brother 'Abd-al-Ghani told Hammam that Yemen appreciates brother President Mubarak's sincere efforts to contain and resolve the crisis, emphasizing that [words indistinct] with these efforts so that Yemen's unity, security, and safety are assured. The meeting was attended by 'Ata Harun, Egypt's ambassador to our country.

Al-Bid Appeals for Help

EA0105151594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Within the framework of contacts being made to contain the situation set off by influential [mutanaffidah] military forces in the General People's Congress on 27 April in the area of 'Imran, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, continued contacts with a number of his brother kings and presidents of Arab states. This evening he spoke on the telephone with the custodian of the two holy places, His Majesty King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1st of September Revolution.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid briefed the kings and presidents on the latest developments in the Yemeni arena, in light of the massing of troops and reinforcements by these forces, and the pursuit of soldiers of the 3d Armored Brigade in the mountains and areas close to 'Imran, as well as the treatment of the brigade's wounded as POW's in their own homeland.

He clarified that these forces are pushing the country into the inferno of a destructive civil war. He asked his brothers the kings and presidents to attempt to prevent this from happening, and to lessen the impact of the pschological and physical pressures from which the wounded are suffering.

YSP: Salih 'War Speech' Caused Attack

NC3004204094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Aden, 30 Apr (MENA)—A spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has accused the military forces in Sanaa of continuing their buildup to besiege and attack the 3d Armored Brigade in the new positions it assumed after the attack against it in 'Imran.

In a statement this evening, the spokesman said the aggression against the 3d Brigade in 'Imran was part of a military and political plan worked out by the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. The attack was launched after the "war speech" delivered by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 27 April, he said.

The spokesman said President Salih is issuing instructions to chase and liquidate the 3d Armored Brigade and to send reinforcements from the Republican Guards and the Central Security forces. These forces, the spokesman added, are assisted by battalions from the al-Majd Brigade moved from Babil al-Jadidah [name as received].

The spokesman said in his statement that the military forces in Yemen left the wounded from the 3d Brigade without medical treatment and sent them to jails. They are being treated as prisoners of war from a foreign army, not as the sons of the unified homeland. The spokesman urged Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and human rights organizations to extend the necessary assistance to those soldiers and to save them from torture.

The spokesman said the schemes currently being designed are part of a horrible bloody adventure that will deeply hurt Yemen's unity and security.

Attacking and chasing the 3d Brigade, the spokesman said, is a crime that will not pass easily because it means declaring an all- out civil war for which the separatists will be responsible.

Meanwhile, informed military sources in Aden have stressed that the military forces in Yemen continue to reinforce the Republican Guards, the Central Security, and the forces led by brothers and aides of President Salih in many governorates to escalate the military and political situation.

The sources said military reinforcements continued in the Governorate of Ta'izz toward al-Rahidah and Jabal Bani Shu'ayb, and the 3d Brigade was equipped to move toward the former border between the two parts of Yemen.

The sources added that the Republican Guards forces and the Central Security units in Dhamar were reinforced by two infantry battalions from al-Majd Brigade to besiege the southern Basuhayb brigade. President Salih and "his military family" are trying to push the biggest force possible toward the oil-rich Governorate of Shabwah, the sources added.

Defense Ministry Details Clashes

JN3004211594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Excerpt] An official military source at the command of the Defense Ministry [word indistinct] has stated the following to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA': Separatist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party rebelling against Constitutional legitimacy have consistently issued fabricated [word indistinct] in the name of the Defense Ministry in which it (?changes) facts and spreads venom and spite and information at variance with what happened at 'Imran Camp on Wedensday and Thursday [27, 28 April] about the regrettable infighting [words indistinct] the armed forces and security.

Out of our concern to present the whole truth to our Yemeni masses, we would like to state the following:

First, at 1400 on Wednesday, 27 April, bloody fighting erupted at 'Imran camp with heavy fire coming from the 3d Armored Brigade directed at the mess in the camp [word indistinct] the Military Committee with the participation of the American and French military attaches (?was convening a meeting). The fire was also directed at [word indistinct] the 1st Armored Brigade and [word indistinct] its concentrations including [word indistinct] concentrations, including the commander of the camp launching tank missiles [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Ministry Renews Mediation Call

EA0105210694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Statement issued by Defense Ministry on 30 April; place not given]

[Text] A responsible source in the Defense Ministry has renewed its appeal to the joint military commission and fact-finding committee, set up by the House of Representatives, to urgently mediate with the ruling military authority in Sanaa so as to save the wounded members of the 3d Armored Brigade. The source has also appealed for a guarantee that medical help and food supplies reach units of the brigade and the tribes of al-Sarih and al-Jabal, which have been subjected to continuous artillery bombardment by Republican Guard forces, central security forces, the military police, and tribes loyal to the ruling family in Sanaa. This came after the Defense Ministry received firm evidence showing that a number of wounded members of the 3d Brigade had been captured or removed from hospitals, shackled, and moved to national security centers and military garrisons, while being treated in a most inhumane and immoral way.

They were interrogated with the aim of extracting fantastic confessions from them in front of television, for cheap propaganda and political ends. Information has confirmed that many of these wounded persons are in terribly bad shape, that their lives are in danger as a result of torture (?in addition to) their wounds. What confirms these inhuman actions on the part of the military ruling authorities in Sanaa, which are being committed without any moral, patriotic or religious feelings, is the fact that on 30 April these authorities arrested Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd-al-Nabi Hadi al-Mahdi, the commander of the 14th Battalion of the 3d Armored Brigade. He was lying in bed at Amran Hospital, having been wounded on 27 April in 'Imran by Sheikh Hamud Atif and his gang, on the orders of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who ordered the battalion commander to be brought to his office dead or alive.

The Defense Ministry source appealed to all patriotic forces, social personalities, parties, institutions, and humanitarian organizations—particularly the Yemeni Red Crescent, Arab Red Crescent, and the International Red Cross, to discharge their humanitarian responsibilities toward our sons and brothers, who are being subjected to the most revolting physical and mental torture at the hands of the torturers and (?intelligence men) of the ruling military family in Sanaa, by guaranteeing the dispatch of medical and food aid to the 3d Armored Brigade and the sons of the al-Sarih and al-Jabal.

Issued by the Defense Ministry
[Dated] 30 April [words indistinct].

Country Said Moving 'Closer to Civil War'

NC0105074394 Paris AFP in English 2150 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, April 30 (AFP)—Rival troops clashed again north of Sanaa Saturday [30 April], pushing formerly divided north and south Yemen closer to civil war as both sides sought help from Arab states to resolve the conflict.

A southern military spokesman in Aden said elite northern Republican Guards "resumed criminal actions against elements of the (southern) third armoured brigade," deployed in the 'Imran region, 60 kilometers (36 miles) north of Sanaa.

The northern troops wanted to dislodge the brigade from positions it had occupied since ferocious tank battles Wednesday and Thursday that left nearly 200 dead and dozens of others wounded, according to journalists.

The defence ministry in Sanaa said 79 people were killed and 119 wounded in the 'Imran fighting, while an unknown number of others had fled or disappeared.

A ministry spokesman quoted by the official news agency SABA' blamed "rebel elements in the (southern) Yemen Socialist Party" for the clashes, saying they were part of a plan "aimed at the partition of Yemen."

He said 159 homes were damaged in the fighting.

The clashes were the heaviest since former North and South Yemen were unified in May 1990.

In the latest fighting the northern forces were backed by tribesmen "hired by Sanaa," according to the southern spokesman.

The Bakil tribe has traditionally supported the south, while the Hashid has backed the north. Both are well equipped and can together raise forces of about 100,000 men.

The armies of north and south, each totalling about 30,000, have never merged since unification.

The southern troops were "still resisting the attacks," the southern spokesman said, and were backed by local people and "patriotic tribesmen." Yemen's political crisis erupted in August, when Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner, refused to take up his duties in Sanaa, demanding major economic and military reforms.

Yemeni political observers said the chances for reconciliation between al-Bid and his rival, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, were diminishing as each side accused the other of separatism.

Al-Bid urged Arab countries to intervene to prevent the conflict escalating Saturday.

In a telephone conversation with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al Qadhdhafi, quoted by the Libyan news agency JANA, al-Bid said he was "worried about the deteriorating situation" in Yemen.

"The Arab nation should intervene to save Yemen from civil war and fratricidal massacres," he said.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani arrived in Riyadh with a message for King Fahd from Salih on the situation in Yemen and a bilateral border dispute.

The Saudi-Yemeni disagreement centres on the provinces of Assir, Najran and Jizan, which were handed to Saudi Arabia under an agreement signed in 1934.

Yemen, which claims the provinces, says the accord expired in 1992.

Saudi-Yemeni relations soured following Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, when Yemeni leaders voiced support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Prior to unification North Yemen maintained close economic ties with Saudi Arabia, while South Yemen was staunchly Marxist.

In Sanaa Saturday six small Yemeni opposition parties called for a "national salvation government" to be set up to implement a reconciliation agreement signed by Salih and al-Bid in Amman on February 20.

They accused the northern and the southern leaders of "plotting against unity."

Meanwhile the YSP accused President Salih of personally "directing the war" against supporters of al-Bid, and demanded that Salih's brother, Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, be tried for "war crimes."

In a statement broadcast on Aden radio and television the YSP said Salih had "ordered the destruction" of the southern brigade based in 'Imran by northern forces led by Ahmar.

Reform Group Issues Statement

JN0105091994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 May 94

["Text" of statement issued by the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praised be God who said: And fear the trial which affecteth not in particular only those of you who do wrong. [koranic verse] God's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad and all his family and companions.

Our people were celebrating the first anniversary of the 27 April 1993 elections—which were viewed by all as a solution to the crises and problems witnessed by our country throughout the transitional period and as the beginning of a new stage of stability and development—when evil elements that feed on crises and problems, that do not wish our country and people well, and that do not want security and stability moved to sow sedition among the sons of the one Yemeni people, triggering violent clashes among the comrades-in-arms in the 'Imran camp. As a result, a large number of our sons and brothers—officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces and innocent citizens—were martyred or wounded and military vehicles and hardware were destroyed for no reason except the desire of certain party leaders to escalate the political crisis that has been going on for about nine months. This crisis has adversely affected all the political, economic, and security aspects of life. It harmed the citizens and gravely affected their lives for the sake of realizing parochial partisan interests devoid of any sense of national responsibility or care for the homeland's unity, sovereignty, and stability.

While expressing its extreme regret, sorrow, and condemnation of what happened at the 'Imran camp, the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping would like to extend its sincere condolences to the families of the martyrs who fell in this criminal incident, and to all members of the patient Yemeni people everywhere who lost brave sons whom they prepared to defend Yemen and its sovereignty and independence and not to realize parochial wishes and interests. It also beseeches Almighty God to encompass them with His grace, grant their relatives and families patience and consolation, and ensure the speedy recovery of the wounded.

Out of its religious and national responsibility, out of its care for the blood of the sons of the one unified Yemen, and out of its desire to maintain unity, the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping would like to emphasize what it has already announced and demanded: The Armed Forces must be away from party conflicts and the neutrality of this national institution must be maintained. It must be considers the property of the entire Yemeni people and not a single party. The Armed Forces should not be used to achieve partisan aims and purposes. The Reform Grouping also stresses the need to rebuild, unite, and merge the Armed Forces according to national principles so that they become the forces of the one united Yemeni people and be loyal to God only. Their task should be that of protecting the homeland and defending its sovereignty, independence, security, and stability.

The Reform Grouping also calls on the competent quarters to expedite investigations into what happened, identify those responsible, and send those parties to the judiciary for judgment. The results should be announced to the people so that the truth will be known and the public can be reassured about the situation. It also calls on every individual and group to rise up to the level of their responsibility, exercise self-restraint, resort to reason, spare the Yemeni people's blood everywhere, adopt dialogue, and avoid the use of force to resolve conflicts. It appeals to the sons of the Armed Forces in particular and the Yemeni people in general to be alert and cautious, not to be dragged in by those who want to implicate them in armed conflict for personal gains, and to confront anyone who tries to harm Yemen or threaten its unity.

The Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping extends its thanks and appreciation to the honorable tribesmen for their sense of responsibility and their rejection of oneupmanship and calls aimed at disrupting their unity. Even those whose difficult circumstances forced them to adopt some wrong positions soon discovered the plans aimed at embroiling them into actions in which neither they nor their homeland had any interest.

Proceeding from its sense of responsibility before God and out of its loyalty to the people and its concern for Yemeni unity, and in an effort to spare the blood of the Yemeni people, the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping calls on the coalition leadership to meet as soon as possible to examine the situation, avert further deterioration, achieve security and stability, maintain the new democratic experiment, respect the nation's will, and end the suffering of the citizens. It considers the coalition government leadership primarily responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the coalition document and the coalition government program, which was approved by the House of Representatives. It is also responsible for the implementation of the pledge and accord document, which was approved by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee and signed on 10 Ramadan, 20 February 1994, in Amman. May God keep Yemen united, ward off any harm to its people, unite hearts along the path of good and right, and grant us success. He has power over all things.

[Signed] The Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping

Presidential Council Issues Statement

JN0105071394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 May 94

["Text" of Yemeni Presidential Council statement issued in Sanaa on 30 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God's peace and blessings be upon the most honorable of prophets and messengers. O sons of our great Yemeni people: The Presidential Council, which was greatly grieved by the fierce, bloody fighting in the 'Imran camp between comrades-in-arms from the 1st and 3d Armored Brigades—which started at 2100 on 27 April, which coincided with the first anniversary of the day of democracy and constitutional legitimacy, and ended at 0900 on 28 April—would like to present the following facts to you:

Sincere efforts have been made during the transitional stage and since the establishment of the unified state, the Republic of Yemen, to merge the armed forces as part of a well-studied and comprehensive plan that would eliminate the remains of divisive colonialism and put an end to partisan and individual loyalties so that the military institution would act solely in the service of the homeland and the people. However, these efforts have continuously been strongly opposed by the leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], who have obstructed all these efforts. They have not hidden their fear that their loss of control over several military units might rob them of the card they are using to achieve their political aims—threatening to restore the pre-22 May 1990 situation if they do not get a sufficient number of seats in the House of Representatives to enable them to maintain an equal share of the power they enjoyed during the transitional period. The clashes and the regrettable riots in Ta'izz on 19 December 1993 were meant to prevent the parliamentary elections on 27 April. Due to the people's resolve and will, the parliamentary elections took place on 27 April last year. The results defined the size of every political party in the field, thus enhancing the fears of the YSP secessionists. Despite the concessions made to preserve unity and achieve national accord, these secessionist elements in the YSP leadership could not stand the idea of losing even a meager percentage of their seats in the government. They, therefore, concealed their exasperation until the time became ripe to fabricate a crisis from pretexts and excuses that would allow them to dictate their conditions and demands to restore the few positions they lost, or else they would employ the card of separation, bargaining over unity to conceal their true aims.

We were taken by surprise, just like you, by the eruption of a crisis, which began with the return to Aden of Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid on 19 August for no reason and without prior warning. The escalation of that crisis began in a well-contrived manner by launching campaign of words aimed at stimulating emotions, justifying rebellion against constitutional legitimacy, and foiling the results of the first general parliamentary elections. Personal demands were concealed behind public demands for local consumption in order to deceive the public in Yemen and abroad. Nevertheless, it was impossible to carry out the sinful separatist scheme, which became increasingly obvious, due to our people's adherence to unity and democracy. The secessionist elements among the YSP then began to foment sedition and conflicts in the society by inciting sectarian and regional feuds, and by misdirecting the Armed Forces in a bid to implicate them in conflicts and destructive fighting in the hope that a sisterly or friendly party, like the Arab League, would then interfere to disengage the forces in a manner that would allow for the return of the military units to the part of the country to which they belonged and make it possible to split the country and restore the pre-22 May 1990 situation.

The first attempt to execute that plan took place in the wake of the signing of the pledge and accord document in Amman on 20 February, corresponding to 10 Ramadan. Then, troops from the 5th Armored Brigade from Aden and the al-Wahdah Brigade from Hadhramaut were sent to besiege the al-'Amaliqah forces and to terrorize citizens in the Abyan Governorate. That plan was foiled. However, a few days later, the secessionist elements fomented a sedition in the Harbi Sufyan area and then in Shabwah. Then, elements inimical to the revolution and unity joined the YSP command's secessionist elements to inflame civil strife. That plan, too, was foiled. That was followed by the events that took place at the Ba Suhayb camp in Dhamar. Most recently, the scene of the plot was the 'Imran camp, where fighting flared between brothers and comrades-in-arm from among the personnel of the 3d Armored Brigade and the 1st Armored Brigade after they experienced years of love and peace since the proclamation of unity. However, the secessionist forces issued hasty orders for the command of the 3d Armored Brigade to open fire with tanks and machine guns on the personnel of the 1st Armored Brigade, some of whom were performing prayers at the camp's mosque while others were safely having their lunch. The joint military committee was also present at the camp.

Consequently, many of the sons of our unified people and Armed Forces were martyred. Perhaps it is our fate as people adhering to their homeland's unity to pay the price for the suspicious aid that the secessionists receive—a price paid in innocent souls and chaste blood. It was no coincidence that that terrible and bloody fighting took place on the first anniversary of the first general elections in united Yemen. Choosing the day of democracy as a date for the fighting was meant to spoil our people's joy. It was a premeditated attack imposed by those seeking to circumvent the pledge and accord document, evade its implementation, and to push the homeland back to the pre-22 May 1990 situation.

The Presidential Council expresses its heart-felt condolences to the families of the martyrs, to our Armed and Security Forces, and to the masses of our Yemeni people. It reaffirms its commitment to take care of bereaved families and to treat the wounded. It stresses that the martyrs are the martyrs of unity and the sons of the unified Yemeni homeland. Their souls and chaste blood are dear to us. As the brother Presidential Council chairman proposed, the Presidential Council urges that the regrettable 'Imran camp calamity be a lesson to everyone and a deterrent for those who play with fire. The Presidential Council urges everyone to heed reason, logic, wisdom, and dialogue, and to place the interest of the homeland above all other considerations. It also stresses the need to respect constitutional legitimacy, to abide by the people's will and national options, and to absolutely and unconditionally accept the principle of peaceful alternation of power. It urges the House of Representatives to play its constitutional duty. It stresses the need to implement the pledge and accord document, starting with the articles dealing with security and military issues. The Presidential Council also calls for a halt in military incidents by immediately removing military tension, withdrawing military units from the former border areas, and redeploying them in accordance with the stipulations of the pledge and accord document.

The Presidential Council also stresses the importance of respecting the people's will through unconditional abidance by the democratic option, which is the people's unequivocal choice. The Council urges extensive national efforts by the sons of our people, by political forces, and by mass organizations to defend unity and prevent fighting. They are urged to exercise political vigilance and national, unionist awareness to ward off the dangers posed to the homeland and its unionist gains. It also calls on the personnel of the Armed and Security Forces to act at the level of the people's confidence in them—as defenders of the homeland and a shield for the revolution, unity, and constitutional legitimacy. It urges them to be fully vigilant to avert the intentions of those who want to foment sedition and divide the homeland. The Council will acquaint the people with all the facts when the investigations conclude and when the names of all those responsible for what has happened are declared.

We beseech God to spare our beloved Yemeni homeland any harm and to safeguard our people against any affliction. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Egyptian Envoy on Efforts To Solve Crisis

NC0105073294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 1 May 94

[Interview with Ambassador Badr Hammam, President Husni Mubarak's envoy to Yemen, in Sanaa by Muhammad al-Aswad in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Aswad] In light of your mission in the Yemeni Republic, what are your impressions of the crisis in fraternal Yemen and how are Egypt's efforts to contain it received?

[Hammam] Several months have passed since the Yemeni crisis started and we are working with all the parties in Yemen to contain the situation and to prevent it from erupting We want to continue with the process of protecting Yemeni unity and with implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document prepared by all the Yemeni parties that took part in the dialogue committee. The document sets the single course to be pursed by Yemen toward building the unified state the Yemenis want.

There are incidents along this course, including the military clash in 'Imran, about 60 kms to the north of Sanaa. It goes without saying that the tension in this crisis is bound to put the ordinary citizen and the Yemeni Armed Forces on edge because they care about Yemen and are worried about their country's future. Anxiety is normal is such crises. But the use of the Yemeni Armed Forces in a political contest, even if this contest reaches the level of struggle, is impermissible and brings many dangers to Yemen, its people, territories, unity, present, and future. I believe that the Yemeni leaders are aware of these dangers. I also believe that they are aware of the dangers of involving the Yemeni armed forces in this partisan political competition that arose because of differences in views over the ways to achieve a unified state. We are clearly and firmly drawing their attention to these dangers.

[Al-Aswad] Ambassador Hammam, you have met with the Yemeni leaders, particularly President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid. What are your impressions from these meetings and what are the obstacles impeding the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document?

[Hammam] My impression is that all the leaders are aware of the dangers, are keen on Yemen's unity, and have the desire to implement the Pledge and Accord Document. But there are different views over the manner of implementation and of the crisis factors. This is normal. But involving the Yemeni Armed Forces or using them in this political competition is impermissible and should not be undertaken. This involvement is a very grave matter.

I met with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Aden and also met with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al- Ghani, member of the Presidential Council. We discussed the means of containing the current situation and of regarding the armed clash between two Yemeni Armed Forces' units in 'Imran as an isolated incident that we should not focus on. We should not forget the main course we have started, namely the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document and protection of Yemen's unity, territorial integrity, and the safety of its people. I believe that all the Yemeni leaders are fully aware of this fact. I find that all of them have good intentions and I hope that this will get us what we want, God willing.

[Al-Aswad] You mentioned the broad context of the agreement but how can this be transformed into action and how can Yemen emerge from its current crisis?

[Hammam] The problem, as is the case the world over, is how to unite the state's agencies and institutions that are entrusted with implementing the Pledge and Accord Document and how to keep the Yemeni Armed Forces from being involved in this political conflict. Struggle for power is normal and happens in many countries, but Yemeni unity is a great deed and achievement and cherished by all Yemenis and Arabs. Maintaining this unity requires further patience and effort. It is no small venture that can be completed overnight; it is a great task that necessarily faces problems and impediments. It is wise and useful that we be patient and take care in finding solutions for them.

[Al-Aswad] How do the brothers in Yemen view Egypt's clear role in the efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis and bring a fraternal united Yemen to the shore of safety?

[Hammam] What I encounter and hear here from officials and average citizens I meet is a sincere and conscious welcome for Egypt's efforts and role because we are sincerely and seriously working to preserve Yemen's security, interest, and independence. I believe they fully realize Egypt's sincere intention and President Mubarak's personal interest in, and regular follow-up of, what happens in Yemen. Therefore, President Mubarak gave instructions for me to return to Yemen on the 28th [April]. I had returned to Cairo for only a couple of days, but the flare-up of the military situation between two units in 'Imran prompted President Mubarak to return me to Yemen at once so that I could follow up the situation, propose, according to his directives, possible solutions to contain this marginal crisis, the crisis of the military clash, and pursue the path to settle the Yemeni crisis through objective solutions satisfactory to all parties.

'Sources:' Efforts of Egyptian Envoy 'Last Hope'

NC0105141194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have stated that the shuttles that President Mubarak's envoy Ambassador Badr Hammam is currently making between Sanaa and Aden are the "last hope" in the attempts designed to prevent the outbreak of a devastating all-out civil war between north and south Yemen. According to these sources, numerous Arab and international parties have exerted intensive efforts to mediate between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, leader of the General People's Congress [GPC] in Sanaa, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leader in Aden, to preserve the unity of the state. However, the mediation efforts have been in vain and failed to prevent the recent military clashes that left more than 1,000 military personnel dead. These sources expressed their fear that the Yemeni crisis might reach the point of no return in view of the resumption of clashes between the northern and southern forces. They also expressed their fear that Yemen may not remain united.

These sources noted that the Yemeni opposition is currently demanding that confidence be withdrawn from the government because it is responsible for the current disarray. They pointed out that the opposition is demanding the formation of a national salvation government in which all political forces participate in order to preserve the unity of the state and implement the "Pledge and Accord" document on national reconciliation that was recently signed in Amman.

The battles that occurred in the 'Imran camp north of Sanaa represent a fresh escalation of a serious political crisis that has continued for eight months between the two main parties in the ruling coalition, the GPC in the north and the YSP in the south. During their propaganda campaign they traded severe accusations that the other one is seeking to secede and is responsible for the deterioration of the political and economic situation in Yemen.

This crisis has crippled political and economic activities and caused Vice President al-Bid to stay in Aden and refuse to return to Sanaa. It has also led to the deterioration in the economic situation, caused the national currency to plummet, inflation to spiral, prices to go up, and unemployment to increase because of a lack of new jobs as local investments declined and foreign investors fear to enter the Yemen market in view of instability and the assassination and kidnapping of foreigners.

Despite the recent signing of the "Pledge and Accord" document in Amman following intensive mediation by Jordan's King Husayn, the two parties to the conflict failed to implement its clauses. This document has been frozen, as it is the only hope for the Yemeni people to emerge from the crisis and the Yemeni leaders have already signed it and approved its clauses. Arab sources in Cairo affirm that Egypt's efforts, led by President Mubarak, are almost the last ditch for the Yemenis to keep the banners of unity flying.

House Committee Continues Discussions

JN0105133194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Tomorrow, Monday [2 May] the House of Representatives will resume its meetings under Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House speaker. The people's deputies will discuss a host of issues on their agenda, as well as the latest developments in the country.

In a related development, the house committee made up of the Defense and Security Committee and other House members continued its meetings this morning. Conferees discussed the initial reports on the field missions carried out by the committee in the past three days. The committee visited the camps of the 1st and 3d Armored Brigades in the 'Imran area. The committee also met with the Joint Military Committee and listened to statements by shaykhs and citizens in the 'Imran area and by some officers and personnel on the circumstances of the regrettable events and their grave results.

The committee also reviewed the outcome of its visit to the military hospital to see the wounded personnel from the 1st and 3d Armored Brigades. It reviewed the outcome of its visits to personnel from the 3d Brigade and the Signals Corps.

Industry Minister on 'Enemies of Unity'

JN0105142494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Our country and the Yemeni working class today celebrated 1 May, the International Labor Day. On this important occasion, a major speech rally was held this morning at the Culture Hall in Sanaa's Cultural Center. Brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al- 'Attar, deputy prime minister, chairman of the Higher Investment Commission, and industry minister, attended.

Brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar delivered the state's and government's speech. He said he was happy to attend this event and share with the Yemeni working class its celebrations of the International Labor Day.

He said the Yemeni labor movement has played an honorable and pioneering role in defending the revolution and the republic, in achieving unity, and in establishment the Yemeni Republic on 22 May 1990, noting that the country will soon celebrate its fourth anniversary. The deputy prime minister explained that this anniversary will come as our country experiences serious political and economic conditions as a result of the political crisis. He said some enemies of unity and democracy want this crisis to continue at the expense of the citizens' pressing issues and daily, urgent living conditions and worries, particularly those of workers. He said the current phase experienced by the state of unity compels the various trends of the labor movement to confront serious national missions to defend and protect the unity and preserve its continuity and survival, according to the pledge and accord document.

President Orders Release of Southern Troops

NC0205061094 Paris AFP in English 2153 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 1 (AFP)—Yemen President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih ordered Sunday [1 May] the release of southern troops who surrendered to northern forces after bitter fighting north of Sanaa last week, in which dozens were killed.

Meanwhile officials in the capital accused southern forces of massing troops along the former border which divided North and South Yemen before unification in May 1990.

The official news agency SABA' said Salih, the rival of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner, ordered that southern troops who surrendered after clashes Wednesday and Thursday in the 'Imran region, 60 kilometers (36 miles) north of Sanaa, would be free to return to their units.

The ferocious tank battles left nearly 200 dead and dozens of others wounded, according to journalists.

But the Defence Ministry in Sanaa said 79 people were killed and 119 wounded, while an unknown number of others had fled or disappeared.

Salih said he had ordered the state to pay for 11 seriously wounded southern troops to be flown abroad for hospital treatment, SABA' reported. Three had already left Sanaa for Jordan Saturday.

Northern military officials said several hundred troops of the southern third armoured brigade at 'Imran had joined the northern forces.

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Sanaa said 85 tanks were destroyed in the fighting, which caused more than 500 million dollars' worth of damage.

Salih pledged that the buildings hit in 'Imran would be rebuilt.

The armies of north and south, each totalling about 30,000, have never merged since unification.

Military officials in the capital said there were "large concentrations of southern troops along the former border" Sunday, and accused al-Bid's supporters of "wanting to push the country into a bloody civil war."

The officials also said southern jets were buzzing northern units based in the Abyan region, east of the southern port city of Aden.

Fighting erupted in Abyan in February and the officials said "secessionist" elements in al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) were planning fresh attacks on the northern al-Amaliqa brigade based there.

Yemen's political crisis erupted in August, when al-Bid refused to take up his duties in Sanaa, demanding major economic and military reforms and citing security fears. yemen

Al-Bid Briefs Syria's Asad on Situation

EA0205064094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, conducted a telephone conversation with his brother Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the Syrian Arab Republic, whom he briefed on deveopments affecting the Yemeni arena in the context of military interactions aimed at plunging the country into a destructive civil war.

Presidential Council Statement Criticized

NC0105185994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Aden, 1 May (MENA)—A spokesman for the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau has commented on the Presidential Council statement that was released in Sanaa yesterday evening. He said that the Presidential Council has revealed its convictions and clarified the truth about its rejection of a plan to merge the armed forces that the defense minister put forward four times in the past few years. Merging the armies would have exposed the corruption and smuggling by the officers of the al-Ahmar clan, who rob the soldiers' salaries and food, torture and humiliate them, and seize funds earmarked for military supplies.

The spokesman noted that merging the armed forces would have meant providing them with qualified personnel who would make them loyal not to their tribes and clans but to the homeland and its constitutional institutions so the armed forces would become the protectors of the homeland. He pointed out that the refusal to merge the armed forces exposes a plan to isolate and strike at them, as has happened in Abyan, (Harf), Safyan, and 'Imran.

The spokesman criticized the Yemeni Presidential Council statement, which talks of democracy and legitimacy while it constantly tramples them. It assailed the Yemeni president and his method of reaching power and ruling the country.

Salih Addresses Troops, Criticizes YSP

JN0205102894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 May 94

[Speech by Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at meeting with "officers, NCO's and soldiers of the 3d Armored Brigade" in Sanaa on 1 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sons, members and fighters of the 3d Armored Brigade in the unity state: With deep sorrow and pain, we ask God to have mercy on our righteous martyrs, our beloved sons. We ask God not to forgive those who hatched out this suicidal conspiracy among the comrades in arms, among the Armed Forces members. You are the nation's vanguards. You became the vanguards of Yemeni unity when you supported the political decision as it was announced on 22 May 1990. Had it not been for the insistence of the fighters in the Yemeni Armed Forces in what was formerly known as the southern and northern parts of the homeland, unity would not have been attained. Had it not been for the insistence of the fighters and the pro-unity members in the Armed Forces in what used to be called the two parts of Yemen before 22 May, unity would not have been achieved.

We know the irresponsible, treacherous, and political designs under which our people, sons, and colleagues in the southern governorates have been erroneously mobilized and how they [the south Yemeni leaders] would govern Yemen in their own way, on the basis of Marxist ideology. They have thus instilled false ideologies in the minds of our Arab and Muslim people and said Yemen would be governed by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership, which has not respected what we agreed to on

30 November and 22 May when it found itself on the verge of falling in the wake of the collapse of the Socialist bloc. I went to heroic Aden to meet with our unionist colleagues. Some of the YSP leaders have gone back on their stands and retreated due to the mistaken calculations that unity would be achieved and [words indistinct] the two parts of Yemen, this united Yemen with our Marxist ideologies in spite of the collapse of the Socialist bloc. They did not learn from their adventures in 1972, and 1979 when they tried to fabricate fighting among the comrades in arms, among the Armed Forces members. They did not learn. The best proof of this is the suicidal operation which took place in the 'Imran camp where they received false information, and they became certain that they should disengage the Armed Forces members and that the 3d Armored Brigade, those heroes, my sons, and brothers would attack their colleagues in the 1st Brigade. They then planned to act through the elements they had sent to topple the republican regime, the regime of the unity state in Sanaa. The brigade was to have left for Sanaa.

As proof of this we see that when unity was achieved the YSP insisted on sending the best fighters to Sanaa. We agreed to this if this would secure unity and reassure the YSP leaders. As you know, the party has become accustomed to carrying out attacks every four or five years. We remember 13 January. We remember the [word indistinct] incidents]. We also remember the [word indistinct] incidents. In all these incidents, people were killed and blood was shed.

I hold the officers, NCO's, and soldiers responsible. They should tell the facts, fear only God, and tell the Yemeni people the truth about how the party falsely mobilized them. This is an adventure [word indistinct] in a losing battle between you and your colleagues in the 1st Brigade. Only the homeland's enemies benefit from it. [Words indistinct] in whose interest is this, who wins from this? Who [words indistinct] crisis and who has tried to bring back the homeland to the pre-22 May era?

This scheme is aimed at getting rid of you because you are the fighters. As for the politicians, they are now depositing their money in European banks. They are depositing the money they received as a price for the crisis and the martyrs. They are depositing the money in European banks and we are today paying the price. People were killed in 'Imran. They want to see people killed in Abyan and Lahij. Was this insufficient? Will the Armed Forces learn the lesson? [Words indistinct] I do not blame you at all and you bear no responsibility. This is the responsibility of those who received the price of the blood of martyrs and Army hardware. You are not at all to blame; it was the fault of wrong mobilization, the fault of the secessionist elements that want to restore the pre-22 May situation so they can assume power while raising the slogan of power or death. Pure blood, the blood of strugglers who carried out the 14 October revolution, and who fought in 'Ayban, Madir, and al-Mahabishah in defense of the republican regime. Today, they (?come) and say that you are besieged and you were praying in one mosque, living in the same barracks, and eating together. But classifying people as northerners and southerners or Congress members was wrong. I hold you, especially the officers, responsible for this. Let them tell us the truth, what is the secret behind this classification? Let us hear the plain facts.

Now 'Ali Salim al-Bid is contacting the outside world saying the 3d Brigade is still fighting and that [words indistinct] its hardware and soldiers. Is it like this? Have you not [words indistinct] with each other? [crowd shouts "yes"] He contacts the outside world [words indistinct]. I am sure that you extended first aid to each other. You aided the 1st Brigade personnel and vice versa. You were made to fight each other but you aided each other. Is this not true? [crowd shouts "yes"] This is because you are comrades in arms and [words indistinct], everyone of you regrets what happened to him and to his colleagues because those killed were our sons and those who survived are our sons. The Armed Forces should follow constitutional legitimacy represented in the state of unity for those who are unionist in the capital of the state of unity. If the defense minister is indeed a minister of defense for the Republic of Yemen, he must command the army from the Defense Ministry and fight in the army in defense of unity, democracy, security, and stability. The defense minister should not represent only one part of the homeland nor should a chief of staff represent only one part. This is an agreement which we announced and said this is our state and this is our capital and these are our problems. They tried the [East] German president, and Germany, which was a stronghold of socialism, fell. The Soviet Union also fell. The Socialist Party [words indistinct] say may God bless our brothers who rescued us from this quagmire and brought us unity for the sake of security, stability, and democracy [words indistinct] and coexist because we are Muslims, because we are Arabs, because we are brothers [words indistinct] we are one nation. We are a Muslim people who believe in God's book and the traditions of God's prophet, his peace and blessings be upon him.

Brothers, sons, and colleagues: My heart is bleeding over what happened in 'Imran. The Socialist Party is imposing a total siege on your colleagues, the comrades in arms, in Abyan, and on your colleagues in (Zirwahah) and your brothers in Aden. Have we besieged any unit in the northern governorates? No. The general escalation [words indistinct]. The officers are not to blame. The blame is on the wrong classification. [Words indistinct] the 14th or the artillery brigades. What happened in 'Imran happened, and we are investigating the incident.

The Armed Forces should follow constitutional legitimacy, and not the leadership deviating from constitutional legitimacy. For those who are unionists we say this is the capital of unity and our Armed Forces in Hadhramaut, Shabwah, and every governorate, in Sa'dah, and in Abyan should announce their loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, the republic, the Yemeni unity, and the national unity. They should disregard all wrong orders from those who want to implicate the Armed

Forces. 'Imran sacrifices are enough. 'Imran martyrs are enough. We consider them martyrs of unity, martyrs of security and stability. Will the Armed Forces be aware of this or not? Accordingly, we will continue to reject the party's orders. Let them come to Sanaa for dialogue and understanding. This is our capital and not the capital of the north only or the south only.

This is our capital, Sanaa, and our capital, Aden, and the capital of all (?presidents of the Republic). This is a very mistaken mobilization. I am sure that you (?were besieged) and that your families and fathers are concerned about you. Why are they concerned? They are concerned about you because they believe that, according to the party's practice, anyone who enters a detention camp [words indistinct]. This is the biggest proof of (?13 January) when they used to (?take in batches). Your sons and brothers are afraid. This is true, because they are concerned about you as you may be detained, imprisoned, [word indistinct], tortured, and measures could be taken against them, and, perhaps, they could be liquidated.

People [words indistinct] wrong, wrong. In other words, [words indistinct]. It happened between colleagues. Enough, enough [words indistinct]. This is so because no one would benefit from it. However, now everyone [words indistinct] and safeguards his colleague. You are brothers and comrades in arms. Mobilization and [words indistinct] the other party which is standing in trenches and breaching the legitimacy. Brothers and sons, (?do you accept) this ordeal which we are passing through these days? [crowd shouts "no"]. Will our Armned Forecs take a lesson? [crowd shouts "yes"]. I have come to visit you. They say we [words indistinct]. Did you [words indistinct] or did you turn yourselves in? [indistinct shouts]

I came to you [words indistinct] as a father, brother, and colleaque. [Words indistinct] all that happened [words indistinct] these heroes any problem. Today when [words indistinct] the price. This is the truth [words indistinct] from a losing battle to a camp in the capital. This talk should be terminated among the officers and other ranks. We are not [words indistinct], but in the event of any battle the killed and wounded should be evacuated. The elements who enjoyed safety should also be evacuated to safe areas.

First of all, I would like to confirm this [words indistinct] I came to you, to visit you, and to tell you: This is your unity. This is your camp. The 3d Brigade exists. What remains of it. Our units are there. You are the army of unity, the army of security and stability. Rely on God and go on leave to visit your families and relatives. This all depends on your conscience. Those who support unity will be supporting honor. Those who support secession... [shouts and applause]. Your tank is there and your artillery is there under the canopy of the unity state. Those who will [word indistinct] will be condemned [shouts and applause). These are your tanks, and your artillery. If we are sincere in what we say, [words indistinct] all your losses. There is no danger on you in the battle. I will pay for them. I will pay all your salaries. I will pay all your indemnities. You will come out with me with your personal weapons to let you regain your prestige. You lost, and the 1st Brigade lost. I will arm you and the 1st Brigade and restore the two brigades' credibility. The other units in the Armed Forces should learn the lesson, that we are waging a losing battle. However, we will be forced to fight to defend unity and democracy and confront the secessionists. We will confront any secessionist [applause].

Now, what are we doing? We are [words indistinct] come and besiege the 2d Brigade. The brother chief of staff has been tasked to disburse salaries and to distribute personal weapons to the officer, NCO's, and soldiers. Then, after your return from your leave, we will form a committee comprising officers from the 1st and 3d Brigades to determine material losses incurred by the officers, NCO's, and soldiers in a responsible manner and we will then try to compensate what we can.

Some believe that these officers, NCO's, and soldiers will [words indistinct] bring pressure to bear on the YSP leadership to have it not carry out any hostile actions against their colleagues in the (?south). If they carry out any aggression against their colleagues, they will pay a prohibitive price [applause]. They will pay a prohibitive price, and I am sure that you will side with unity and support your colleagues [applause]

'Source' Denies Development Minister's Resignation

JN2704153294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Apr (INA)—An official Yemeni source has denied reports that Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, has submitted his resignation.

In a statement to an INA correspondent, the official Yemeni source dismissed such reports as completely baseless.

In its latest issue, the opposition Yemeni paper AL-WAHDAWI said Dr. al-Irayni had resigned his ministerial post. The paper said the resignation was kept quiet to allow time to convince him to withdraw it.

Government Requests Postponement of Saudi Border Talks

PM2704104394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Apr 94 pp1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri: "Saudi Arabia-Yemen: Sanaa Requests Postponement of Border Talks"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—The eighth session of the Saudi-Yemeni Experts Joint Borders Committee, scheduled to be held in the Saudi capital today, has been postponed at the request of the Yemeni Government.

AL-HAYAH has learned from reliable sources that the Yemeni Foreign Ministry instructed its ambassador in Riyadh to convey to Saudi officials Sanaa's wish to postpone the meeting until a later date "perhaps to be announced after the current pilgrimage season." The sources attribted the Yemeni request to the intensifying differences between Sanaa and Aden, particularly after the failure to implement the reconciliation agreement between the Yemeni president and his deputy. [passage omitted]

This is the fourth time Yemen has requested postponement of committee meetings since they started in July 1992.

Saudi Arabia still insists on its position, calling for the implementation of al-Ta'if border agreement signed by the two countries in 1934. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Visits al-Anbar Governorate

JN3004185194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today visited al-Anbar Governorate and met with several tribal chieftains in the presence of al-Anbar Governor Mani' 'Abd Rashid and the secretary and members of the al-Anbar branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Speakers from the residents and tribal chieftains in al-Anbar Governorate reiterated their absolute love for and loyalty to the leadership of the leader president, may God preserve him, until total victory over the enemies is achieved, God willing.

In speeches and poetry they delivered before the president, several chieftains voiced their great pride in the interest his excellency takes in the city of al-Ramadi and the rest of the governorate's cities, as well as his personal interest in the projects that are implemented.

The leader president, may God preserve him, delivered an important speech in which he praised the position of the residents of al-Anbar Governorate, pointing out that it was historic, that future generations will remember it with pride, and that history will record the militant position and steadfastness of all the sons of great Iraq.

Addresses Officials, Residents

JN0105074994

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 2000 GMT on 30 April carries a "recording" of a 28-minute off-the-cuff address delivered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to al-Anbar officials and residents during his visit to al-Anbar Governorate on 30 April. Reception ranges from fair to poor, with a number of indistinct passages.

Saddam begin his address by commenting on the speeches made by the al-Anbar dignitaries. He observes that, in their speeches, they began with history. This shows that the Iraqis and Arabs care about history and the past, just as they care about their future. He adds that the Arabs always stress the nonmaterial meanings of the past, citing a speaker who highlighted the historical status of al-Anbar in the past, rather than its material possessions.

Saddam adds that the most important thing he wishes for the people of al-Anbar is for history to record their positions so that their grandchildren may take pride in them. He tells them that every position has its rewards and consequences. Saddam then recalls his previous visits to al-Anbar.

Saddam continues to elaborate on the link between the past and the present, noting that the Arab nation is capable of making great achievements when it relies on God and gathers the necessary elements for success. He then talks about anti-Arab trends in the Arab world that have cast doubts on the Arab nation's present capabilities and argue that the past glory of the Arabs is over.

Addressing people of al-Anbar on this point, Saddam adds: "Your great role and the role of your people is that they have created a vital link between the present and the past." He then refutes charges that the Arabs do not know how to use their minds or how to utilize science. Saddam says science emerged first from Baghdad and then developed in other nations later when Baghdad retreated for reasons familiar to all historians. Saddam says this link between the past and the present is important because it enables the people to look toward the future with confidence. The present shows that the Arabs know how to respond to the scientific age in a balanced, correct fashion, because the Arabs have faith that puts science on its proper track.

Saddam tells the people of al-Anbar that their sacrifices provide strength to remedy the weakness on the part of certain Arabs and Arab officials who, wittingly or unwittingly, have taken a wrong course of action.

Saddam then recalls a conversation he had with an "Arab official" during the war with Iran. He says he had told the official that the Arabs should thank Iraq, not for the obvious reasons—that Iraq is the eastern gate of the Arab nation and that it protects the nation, enabling many people to sleep peacefully when they could not before—but because Iraq upholds the banner of the Arab nation and has given all Arabs a chance to demonstrate an honorable position, whether in words or by contributing money or troops. Saddam says that a right is not lost if someone continues to claim this right and fights to regain it. He recalls in this connection some battles fought in al-Anbar to regain its lost territory, thus showing the Arabs their history in the making. Saddam concludes his speech by thanking God for everything that has happened and praising God for everything that is yet to come.

The recording of the address ends at 2028 GMT.

Christopher Tour Said 'To Impose' U.S. Policy

JN3004112294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0956 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—The paper AL-QADISIYAH has said that the basic objective of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour is to impose U.S. decisions on the countries he will stop in—Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria—and to maintain pressure on Iraq, harm it, and continue the siege imposed on it in an attempt to achieve what the military aggression has failed to achieve.

In an article today under the headline "A New Chapter in the Scheme of Conspiracy," the paper adds that the priority given to discussions of the developments in the Arabian Gulf stems from heightened U.S. interest in the situation in this region and because Iraq has held fast in defiance of the forces of evil, conspiracy, and aggression, rebuilding all the pillars of advancement that the evil ones destroyed.

The paper says that recent international changes, particularly on the part of three permanent UN Security Council members, provide strong evidence that Iraq has an important regional and pan-Arab role, that it is part of the real world, and that it must be respected and dealt with seriously. It is useless for the United States and Britain to continue to ignore history and geography or to continue the imposition of the blockade against the steadfast Iraqi people.

Press Reacts to Christopher's NY TIMES Article

JN0105101594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—In their editorials today, the Iraqi papers stress that Christopher's article in THE NEW YORK TIMES is nothing more than a reiteration of the same conniving U.S. stands aimed at fabricating pretexts and justifications to prolong the blockade and harm the leadership and people of Iraq.

The paper says that the lies included in Christopher's article are fabrications that will not stand up before the facts and that they are an obvious misrepresentation of reality and a sign of weakness, for a strong stand does not need lies to support it.

The papers add that Christopher's article is a nervous response to Iraq's diplomatic moves and the international changes acknowledging and praising Iraq's cooperation and calling for taking the required steps to remove the blockade after the disappearance of its justifications.

Under the headline "Iraq's steadfastness and Christopher's Allegations," AL-QADISIYAH says that thanks to its patience, jihad, balanced political stand, and the wisdom of its historical leadership, Iraq has destroyed the chapters of conspiracy against it. Despite their unfairness, Iraq has fulfilled its obligations fully toward relevant UN Security Council resolutions. This has been acknowledged by the fair UN Security Council member states and the special commissions that have dealt with those resolutions.

The paper explains that Christopher's stand reflects the reality of the tendentious and unjustified U.S. stand against Iraq, thus increasing U.S. isolation and showing that the United States is the sole power antagonizing Iraq and seeking to perpetuate the blockade against it. This is contrary to the will of the majority of permanent UN Security Council member states, other member states, and the rest of the world states that sympathize with Iraq's suffering and view positively its honoring of its obligations in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

Under the headline "Christopher Is Swimming Against the Current," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Christopher has fallen into a glaring contradiction when, claiming to be speaking on behalf of the international community, he said that he opposes Iraq's efforts to have the blockade lifted. He said, however, that he sees that the unity of the Security Council has begun to disintegrate and that the majority of the international community are now in favor of lifting the blockade. He also said that a minority—specifically the United States and Britain—still want the blockade to continue.

The paper adds that some may think that like his president, Christopher may have little information about the suffering of the Iraqi people. But in his article, Christopher shows complete awareness and acknowledges the Iraqi people's suffering. Yet, he called for maintaining the blockade against Iraq, turning a blind eye to that fact and deliberately seeking to prolong that suffering. The paper asks: Can any double standard be clearer than this?

Under the headline "Exposed Fabrications in Warren Christopher's Article," AL-THAWRAH says: Warren Christopher's article reflects the embarrassing situation the U.S. Administration, led by Clinton, has put itself in as a result of its continued unjustified confrontation with Iraq and its desperate attempts to continue to harm Iraq by calling for tightening the blockade and extending it at every review session.

The paper adds that the U.S. secretary of state's article was a direct reply to the voices, which are growing louder even inside the United States, saying that the U.S. attitude not only conflicts with the changing international position but also with the interests of United States itself, especially after French, Italian, German, and Japanese companies have opened negotiations with Iraq to protect their interests.

The paper says Christopher's accusation that Iraq tried to assassinate criminal George Bush during his visit to Kuwait has been refuted by the trial of those accused of the attempt. The statements made by the defendants and the fact that the sessions have been adjourned several times to reach a verdict prove that the story is nothing more than a fabricated and exposed attempt aimed at maintaining a tense situation and pressing for continuing the blockade imposed on Iraq.

On Christopher's claims about the so-called displacement operations of Arabs in the marshlands, the paper says: The report prepared by a special UN committee—formed to look into chemical use allegations propagated by Western quarters and Iranian authorities—has conclusively refuted these allegations after examining all aspects of this affair. The committee would not have missed the slightest indication of such operations, especially since it hoped, along with those who sent it, to find even a shred of evidence to facilitate condemning Iraq.

On Christopher's allusion that Iraq is still holding Kuwaiti prisoners, the paper says Iraq is willing to cooperate with any party to ascertain the truth of the information sent by Iraq to the Arab League through its envoys who visited Iraq and saw with their own eyes that there are no Kuwaitis detained in Iraq. The latest Iraqi initiative in this regard was the invitation extended by the Iraqi National Assembly speaker to a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to visit Iraq and see that Iraq is not holding any Kuwaiti prisoners, but Kuwait has rejected the offer.

On Christopher's accusation that Iraq continues to produce weapons of mass destruction, AL-THAWRAH says: The statements of Rolf Ekeus are still fresh. Ekeus said two days ago, after meeting with Iraqi officials, that Iraq is cooperating with the Special Commission and that both sides are working together to shorten the trial period of the monitoring regime. Also, all reports by the UN committee supervising the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction show, in documents and figures, Iraq's full response to its demands to facilitate its mission.

On Christopher's talk about our beloved north and his accusation that Iraq is assassinating relief workers and UN observers, the paper wonders: Has Christopher forgotten that the region he is talking about is currently outside the control of the central authority and that the forces of his country and the allied states are supervising the region and claim to be providing security and peace for it?

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Christopher's article amounts to nothing more than a repeat of conniving U.S. positions that seek to create excuses and pretexts to maintain the blockade and target the people and leadership of Iraq, who have proven, through their remarkable steadfastness, that it is possible to defeat the schemes of the enemies. The enemies did not imagine Iraq would return a giant, as it was, having dealt it a blow with all of the weapons of mass destruction in their arsenal.

UN's Ekeus Cited on Baghdad Mission, 'Progress'

JN2904125194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] New York, United Nations, 29 Apr (INA)—Yesterday, after presenting a report to the Security Council about his mission in Baghdad, Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council Special Commission, said that "Iraq is cooperating with the Special Commission. We are working together to shorten the trial period of the monitoring regime." Ekeus also said that he is very optimistic.

Ekeus added that the Security Council member states would like to have a monthly follow-up on the monitoring regime. Ekeus said: I have told them that the Committee has positive developments to report in all fields.

Ekeus noted that work on the monitoring regime in the missile and the chemical fields will be finished in May and in the biological field in June.

INA has learned that the PRC envoy has asked that the Security Council acknowledge the very positive developments in Iraq's implementation of UN resolutions. He suggested that the Security Council adopt a partial lifting of the blockade.

The Russian envoy also spoke about the need to give Iraq a chance for more cooperation. The British envoy acknowledged that progress had been made and that Ekeus' report to the Security Council was encouraging.

Kurds: PRC Supplying Chemical Arms to Baghdad

NC3004093694 Paris AFP in English 0817 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, April 30 (AFP)—An Iraqi Kurdish opposition group on Saturday alleged China was supplying Iraq with chemical weapons through a third country.

"Kurdish police intercepted on the night of April 17 two trucks carrying 19 tonnes of sodium phosphate used to make mustard gas and chemical weapons," a statement by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said.

The chemicals were smuggled into Iraq through a "neighbouring" third country, according to the statement received here by AFP which did not identify the country.

The truck drivers "admitted during questioning" they were trying to transport the chemicals through Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq to regions controlled by the Iraqi central government.

PUK Clarifies Stance on Dialogue With Baghdad

NC3004134094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1624 GMT 29 Apr 94

["Clarification" by unidentified official spokesman of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] During an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], spoke frankly about several important issues, including an attempt by the Iraqi regime to negotiate with the Kurdish people's liberation movement. He explained the PUK's understanding of this issue. It is worth noting that certain parties used particular parts of the interview for their own interpretations and to serve their own objectives. Therefore, to avoid misleading the masses or distorting the PUK's views and policies, we would like to declare to the masses of Kurdistan that the PUK considers federalism a gain for Kurdistan because it establishes the status of Kurdistan within an Iraqi framework on a federal basis. The PUK considers this to be the fruit of the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs and of a long and bitter struggle by the Kurdish people.

The PUK played an effective and important role and has made sacrifices to accomplish this. Under no circumstances will the PUK accept lesser gains for narrow party interests and developments; this is impossible.

Self-rule is not a PUK slogan. However, no other political party can be prevented from raising the self-rule slogan instead of the slogan of obtaining our people's legitimate rights. The PUK adheres to the idea of federalism in form and content. Establishing relations between the Kurds and Arabs in Iraq on the basis of federalism without achieving democracy remains an impossible dream. Therefore, eliminating the dictatorship and achieving democracy in Iraq are two prerequisites for establishing and safeguarding federalism in Kurdistan and Iraq.

Negotiating with Saddam Husayn for any reason whatsoever will only result in repeating the tragedies of the Kurdish people and the destruction of Kurdistan.

All the countries and people of the world consider Saddam Husayn and his regime to be big war criminals, genocidal criminals, and a contributing factor to instability in the region. Negotiations between Kurds or any Kurdistan party in Iraq with this regime constitutes a link with a collapsing regime that is ostracized by the countries of the region and the world. In effect it would mean substituting a considerable and realistic gain for an illusion.

The PUK considers dialogue one of the ways and means of struggle. However, initiating a dialogue with Saddam Husayn—with his criminal killers of Kurds, enemies of mankind, democracy, peace, and human rights, the chauvinists, and racists—would be inexcusable under the current circumstances. This is because Saddam Husayn and the Ba'thists do not recognize any of our Kurdish people's rights. They consider death and destruction as the only legitimate right we Kurdish people have left.

Our people have tried to engage in dialogues with the Iraqi regime several times, and they must have learned a lesson from this experience. The Baghdad regime may provide funds and arms to those who side with it, but it will never recognize the Kurdish people's rights, nor will it improve the living conditions of the Kurds.

The PUK considers the gains made in Iraqi Kurdistan, embodied in the parliament and federal government, freedom, and peace, to be great gains that cannot be safeguarded through dialogue with Saddam Husayn. In fact, a dialogue with Saddam Husayn might destroy these gains. Safeguarding these gains can be achieved through the unity of the people and cooperation among the Kurdistan Front parties and the sons of our people. We believe that safeguarding and promoting these gains is a turning point for establishing a firm entity in Kurdistan. No one has a right to make us lose this opportunity.

'National Resistance' Threatens To Avenge al-Suyahl

PM2804114694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Movement Threatens To Avenge al-Suhayl Murder"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A movement calling itself the "National Resistance" in Iraq has announced its intention to avenge the assassination of Iraqi oppositionist Talib al-Suhayl, who was killed by the Iraqi intelligence service in Beirut. In leaflets it distributed in a number of districts in the Iraqi capital the movement said that some people have named the main street leading to al-Shu'lah area in Baghdad "al-Suhayl Street." The movement said that the murdered oppositionist was "the toughest defender of freedoms and democracy for 30 years."

Arrivals from Iraq say that these leaflets were distributed at night in front of houses, shops, and schools. It is the first time this movement has distributed leaflets in Baghdad and a number of major cities.

Meanwhile, some leaders of the Iraqi Tamim tribes, one of whose senior leaders was al-Suhayl, have met to discuss steps to be taken to retaliate against the government, including pursuing those who planned and implemented the operation and all those who took part in watching and supplying information about al-Suhayl's movements from inside and outside Iraq. Arrivals from Baghdad say that security authorities have encircled a number of houses belonging to senior Tamim tribal chiefs in anticipation of violent incidents.

Baghdad Protests to UN Over U.S. Air Activity

JN2704125594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Iraq has informed the United Nations of violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft which were on surveillance and harassment missions, during which they dropped flares on Iraqi territory.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace during period 11-20 April. They conducted 619 hostile air sorties during that period. Their flights centered over northern and southern Iraq.

The U.S. aircraft also broke the sound barrier over several Iraqi cities.

Ba'th Party Official Criticizes U.S. for Boycott

AU0205095894 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 2 May 94 p 5

[Report by Gerhard Bitzan: "United States Insists on Iraq Boycott by All Means"]

[Text] Vienna—'Abd al-Razak al-Hashimi, director of the foreign office of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, accuses the United States of wanting to maintain the international boycott against Iraq by all means. "The United States prevents the UN Security Council from lifting the sanctions; and this even though Iraq has fulfilled all demands and resolutions." The foreign leader of the state party also criticizes the United States with regard to Kuwait: "Kuwait was not the point for them, because the crisis has long passed, more than three years have passed. But the United States is maintaining the sanctions. This shows that the problem was not Kuwait."

Al-Hashimi also complains about international propaganda: "We are accused of still having Kuwaiti prisoners. Commissions visited us, which confirmed our claims—there are no prisoners. We have even invited Kuwaiti parliamentarians, but they rejected the invitation."

Regarding the latest attacks on UN employees in northern Iraq, al-Hashimi says that this area is not under government control; therefore, Baghdad rejects all accusations that its agents have carried out these attacks. "The Kurds in this zone know now that things were much better in the past. The problem is foreign interference. There will only be a solution if the foreign powers leave the country. We will get along well with the Kurds."

For al-Hashimi the most important thing is that the sanctions are lifted, "that the Iraqi nation has enough to eat." He sees signs of a softening: "The United States cannot prevent that anymore. Sooner or later the boycott will be lifted." In this period, which is so difficult for Iraq, one is choosing the friends, and also future business partners, who will then already have a foothold in Iraq as soon as the sanctions are lifted, al-Hashimi says temptingly.

Paper: Nixon Views Affect Clinton's Anti-Baghdad Stance

JN2704121494 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 27, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper of Baghdad today said ideas of the former American President Richard Nixon had greatly influenced the behaviours of President Bill Clinton and boosting his antagonism to Iraq.

A paper editorial said that viewpoints of President Nixon toward Iraq, which were reflected in his book had equalled between the danger of Iraq to the West with that of the Soviet Union and pointed out that Bill Clinton insists on obstructing the lifting of the embargo so that Iraq would not resume its liberation role for peace, stability and justice in the region.

The paper said that Nixon, in his book admits that the influence of Saddam Husayn's Iraq bypasses its geographic size and makes it in the same level of influence of the Soviet Union toward international events.

The Iraqi paper further said that the former American president added in his book that Saddam Husayn's Iraq and the Soviet Union represented the most significant dangers and challenges that had faced the world.

It explained that Nixon assessments were based on various political and geopolitical realities that could not be concealed, prominent among which is that Iraq is considered one of the few countries that would have an essential role in world economy, the world technological growth and the balances of regional and international forces.

Referring to the factor of oil, the paper said that oil is an effective power in the hand of Iraq and that oil would remain the major source of energy in the world for another century and consequently the one who dominates oil would have an effective role in the world of tomorrow.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper said the second effective power is technology which started to be acquired by most nations and had minimized the importance of some countries that had technological supermacy.

The paper added that patriotic policy also influences the role of countries in international events and that the independent political course of some world countries has become a giant power feared by the big powers which try to place the world under their hegemony.

The paper linked this reality with the plots and aggressive plans and said that America resolved to destroy countries that maintain an independent course like Yugoslavia and that its attempts with Iraq had failed.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expressed conviction over having oil as a strong weapon in the hands of Iraq alongside other weapons for the sake of confirming its effective role and position in the region and said that the independent policy of Iraq represents the basic guarantee for having oil away from imperialist domination and turning technology into a striking power in steadfastness and progress.

The paper said that all those facts interpreted Nixon outlook toward Iraq and were represented in the fact that Saddam Husayn's iraq constitutes an obstacle that could not be removed before the attempts of American imperialism dominates the world and that is why we see Clinton insists on obstructing the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

U.S. Pecuniary Interests Foster Anti-Embargo Moves

JN2704135394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Not Just the Allies: America Too"]

[Text] Whoever thinks America's allies and supporters in the 30-state aggression against our country are the only ones who changed their positions on the embargo on Iraq is totally mistaken. This is because America itself is facing a new move from within that centers on a demand to reestablish relations with Iraq and end the embargo. Taking part in this move are senior politicians, Congress members, researchers, and, above all, prominent businessmen.

Some Congress members like Lee Hamilton, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives, and Senator David Banner [name as published] began to question the wisdom behind continuing the embargo. Moreover, the two most important newspapers in America; namely, THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST, are talking in a new language about the embargo, demanding that it should be lifted because it is no longer justified and because of Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations. The dissatisfaction was not confined only to elements in both political and media quarters, but also included the economic quarter. Many U.S. companies in the sectors of agriculture, oil, and car and airplane manufacturing began to talk about their losses as a result of the embargo on Iraq.

Former U.S. Congress member Mervin Dimely [name as published] noted that the losses are estimated at more than $2 billion in certain sectors. Therefore, preparations have begun to hold a conference organized by American companies in Washington in May. These companies called on the secretary of energy and secretary of commerce to attend the conference in order to discuss the negative effects of the embargo on the U.S. economy. Because the three powers in America—the political, media, and economic powers—are beginning to witness dissatisfaction and an inclination toward lifting the embargo, this means action against the embargo has begun in America as well as in other countries. Here we can say that these positive changes have taken place thanks to the steadfastness and sacrifices of the Iraqi people and to the greatness of their leader Saddam Husayn. Therefore, in order for these developments to reach a positive result, we must reinforce the base of steadfastness and broaden the rallying around President Saddam Husayn. We must move on all diplomatic, commercial, media, and organizational levels to cut short the time for achieving great changes.

Paper on Possibility of Defeating U.S. Plans

JN2504182394 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "The Success and Failure of U.S. Plans in Light of the Leader's Speech"]

[Text] Some might not be aware of the consequences of promoting confused political views ostensibly grounded in common sense, but which when subjected to a thorough and serious examination, turn out to be serious attempts at deception. An example of this is the argument promoted in various parts of the world that world events are determined by the decisions of superpowers, which cannot be conquered by medium-sized and small powers. Consequently, these humble powers eventually succumb. This argument is promoted particularly by West-educated individuals, and among quarters that maintain cultural and political ties with the West.

This argument gained wide circulation in the aftermath of the the collapse of East Europe and the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. The aim has been to prove that U.S. decisions always triumph, and that whatever the United States wants, the United States gets. It is ironic that this argument is being promoted in this age of decadence by intellectuals and thinkers who in the past depicted themselves as advocates of liberation and progress. These people are promoting this argument under the guise of having to demonstrate "rationality, realism, and in-depth knowledge." Nonetheless, it has to be remembered that these very individuals are well aware in their heart of hearts that a thorough analysis of the current state of affairs would point to the opposite of what they are promoting.

Given all this, and to dispel any delusions that might be harbored here or there, we must pose a specific and direct question, particularly since we are now in the final chapter of the embargo. This question is as follows: Is it true that U.S. plans and decisions are fail proof, and that peoples have to succumb to U.S. hegemony? Well, we will not answer this question by way of theoretical exposition and analysis. Rather, we will address the international situations in which the United States made the crucial decision and went to war to vindicate that decision.

For example, in World War II, the war was not settled by a U.S. decision. Indeed, the Soviet Red Army played the crucial role in defeating Germany. Concerning the European and U.S. contribution to the war effort in World War II, it comes next to the Soviet Red Army's contributions. It has to be recalled that the United States got involved in the war only in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor incident.

Similarly, in the early 50's, the United States went to war on the Korean peninsula to prevent liberation forces there from reaching power. However, the result was that the United States was defeated, and the Korean revolutionaries established a base in the north, which is now called the DPRK, one that has remained very much alive.

Additionally, the United States experienced abysmal defeat when it attempted to knock off the Cuban revolution. This failure is still a hard fact although Cuba is only 90 miles from Miami Beach. It is to be recalled that the Castro-led Cuban liberation revolution triumphed 33 years ago. As for Fidel Castro, he has remained a nationalist and socialist hero. He is persisting in the fight against U.S. colonialism. This U.S. defeat acquires greater significance when, we realize that the United States has a huge military base on Cuban territory.

When France fled Vietnam after the Dien Bien Phu battle, the United States thought that it was in a better position than France to dominate the Vietnamese. This prompted it to embroil itself in the Vietnamese mire for several years. Consequently, it lost 50,000 American lives, and many times this number in wounded and handicapped Army personnel. The Vietnam war brought about early recession to the U.S. economy. It is true that the United States was not defeated in a crucial military battle in Vietnam, as was the case with France. However, it suffered a strategic defeat when it lost the will to fight. That is why its military command fled Vietnam from the rooftop of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon in a most disgraceful and cowardly act. The U.S. military command left 1 million South Vietnamese troops to face their destiny there. Hence, the Vietnam complex that surfaced in the United States.

What happened in Vietnam also happened in Laos, Cambodia, and Latin America, where nationalist revolutionaries achieved victory by force of arms, although they are in the "back yard" of America. In our homeland, the region has never seen a colonialist force that is more cowardly than America. The demolition of the Marines' headquarters in Lebanon and the killing of more than 200 soldiers showed the fragility of the U.S. decision. After Ronald Reagan's fiery and strong decisions to invade Lebanon and to destroy it, the decision was changed and the Marines withdrew in a humiliating way.

In Africa, America and its agents were defeated in Zimbabwe—formerly Rhodesia—Ethiopia, and elsewhere. In the Arab homeland, there was also the 17-30 July Revolution in 1968, which made great changes despite America and its continuous conspiracies.

These examples prove, without any doubt, that America did not achieved any strategic victory until the late eighties. In fact, it sustained strategic defeats wherever it interfered. Its decisions were defeated. The "Vietnam complex" was aggravated in a way that encouraged the American public to exert pressures to resort to the policy of isolation.

However, some might wonder and say: The collapse of East Europe, the disintegration of the USSR, and the nineties all indicate that America has achieved victory. This question is immaterial. One of the facts revealed in 1993, which were mere conclusions in 1992, shows that the collapse of the USSR was due to two essential factors: The first factor is the corrupt social-economic system and its party tool, which was the factor that contributed the most to the collapse, because it paved the way for the emergence of the second factor: The internal treason represented by the decision of Michail Gorbachev and his clique to premeditatedly partition the USSR, as Yanayev, who was Gorbachev's deputy, said.

Here, we can say that the only big strategic victory scored by America was not military, but an intelligence victory by which America succeeded in winning over Gorbachev and turning him into an ideological agent who destroyed the USSR and paved the way for Soviet intelligence to destroy Communism in East Europe.

The categorical evidence of the soundness of what we are saying is the current situation. Apart from America's victory in the field of intelligence, what is left is a series of defeats that resulted in the downfall of Bush and a change in the comprehensive global strategy. America tried to deceive the world by propagating the prevalence of the American era, leadership, and model of life. It embodied this ideologically by presenting Fukiyama's theory of the end of history. Following all this, America began to face serious challenges beginning with the severe Iraqi blow in the Mother of Battles which exposed America's shames and weakness as noted by leader President Saddam Husayn in his address on 17 April 1994.

Iraq fought, remained steadfast, and triumphed over the most brutal and most serious military campaign in history, in which the weapons of the 21st Century, prepared to destroy the Soviet Union, were used against it. This is despite the fact that all U.S. officials and writers affirmed that the Saddam Husayn regime would end within a month. However, years have passed and Iraq's strength has been doubled and become historic, thereby forcing U.S. intelligence to admit there is no hope of changing the Iraqi regime.

The mere survival of Saddam Husayn's Iraq in the face of the barbaric and fascist onslaught is a great strategic victory that has shaken the pillars of the evil empire led by Bush. As a result of Iraq's victory and heroic steadfastness, Russia woke up from America's morphine and began its struggle against its hegemony. We are now witnessing Russia's swift return to the scene of world events in defiance of America, which decided to divide Russia as it divided the Soviet Union. America, however, failed in dividing Russia.

Somalia, the small starving state, forced America to withdraw with humiliation. This showed once again that it is ready to withdraw and change stands under the first signs of pressure.

In Haiti, the regime the United States wanted to replace is still steadfast and is still challenging the United States. Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which the United States wanted to dominate the region in cooperation with the Zionist entity, have become fragile entities on the verge of collapse, especially Egypt, which is being stormed by an armed national revolution that is hostile to the United States and Zionism.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the republics of the former Soviet Union, and eastern Europe the situation is plagued with unprecedented confusion. This has led to the return of socialists and nationalist forces to their leading role in the society. Even the United States' closest ally, Japan, has begun to rebel against paternal U.S. hegemony. Japan strongly said no to the United States. The European Union is also working seriously to achieve its independence.

In Asia, the Chinese giant is waking up to teach the United States lessons in international politics and to keep the United States from imposing its hegemony over the Korean peninsula and Chinese decision making. China has stopped bowing to the U.S. tempest. The most obvious picture of U.S. failure is the disintegration of the anti-Iraq front at the Security Council and the United Nations, as well as the emergence of big powers and other powers demanding an end to the blockade on Iraq in spite of the United States.

In light of these defeats and this public U.S. failure throughout the world, the United States can no longer repeat Bush's silly talk that the world has become stable, that conflicts have ended, and that peace has prevailed as a result of U.S. dominance. A new theory emerged called the conflict of cultures by American Professor Samuel Huntington [name as published] to replace the theory that is called the end of history in the U.S. black house. According to this theory, the world is a dangerous jungle full of wars and ethnic, cultural, and religious mines. The reasons for wars and clashes have become cultural rather than ideological or economic.

This theory prevails in the Bill Clinton era just as Fukiyama's theory prevailed in the Bush era. This clearly shows the failure of the planned global strategy, as well as the U.S. failure to dominate the world.

Therefore, leader President Saddam Husayn's conversation with the commanders who liberated al-Faw is an ingenious and sound analysis of one of the world's most important issues pertaining to the blockade imposed on Iraq. Contrary to what is being spread by the U.S propaganda machine—that breaking or maintaining the blockade should be purely an American decision and that the other states, including Iraq, cannot affect that decision—we say breaking the blockade will be an Iraqi decision that will be implemented, thanks to the Iraqi people's will and steadfastness and to President Saddam Husayn's leadership. Just as it was defeated in Vietnam and other places and failed in the nineties to invest in the unique opportunity following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States will be defeated in the battle of the blockade.

Wellbeing is coming, wellbeing is coming not because the evil ones intend to lift the evil, but because we know that the fist that seizes the sword by its blade will be forced to ease the grip when the owner of the sword pulls the sword forcefully. When the owner of the sword pulls the sword forcefully, the adversary will find himself compelled to release his grip on the sword or risk losing his fingers. In either case, he will have to release the sword. In this ingenious talk, the leader defines the future of the blockade. The United States will be compelled to retreat, cancel all its threats and decisions, and bow in respect to the Iraq of the martyrs and Saddam Husayn, whose slap to the face of George Bush awoke the world.

The United States is burdened with the factors of collapse. Month after month, it becomes weaker and weaker. The price it will pay for its crimes against Iraq will double. Our people, who achieved the impossible and foiled U.S. decisions during the Iranian aggression on Iraq, will be able to cut off the fingers of the United States, which is now seizing Iraq's sword by the blade. The Iraqi people will adopt decisive decisions and will push history against the current the United States wants.

Writer Sees Fall of U.S., Rise of Iraq, Palestine

JN2604170194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 3

["Attention" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "America...Rise and Downfall"]

[Text] It is not strange that the United States is beginning its fall from the summit it enjoyed for a few years. To stay on the world's summit requires much more than brute force and technical, military, and media superiority. This requires a humanitarian message that convinces the world's peoples. This is something Washington does not have, as U.S. circles admit.

Some confused people do not see the U.S. slide, but continue to see the old upward trend. These people do not see the opportunities in the region and the international arena.

Even more serious is the fact that these people have seen the U.S. progress, but they did not note—due to their horror and blindness—that this climb to the summit of global positions was due to notable collapses. This means the United States moved forward because there was no resistance, or, let us say, it moved ahead as a result of multiple absences. The collapse of the Soviet Union was basically due to self-motivated reasons, and the same was the case with countries of former Socialist bloc. The collapse of Somalia was due to famine and fighting. The official Arab journey to Madrid was the result of the collapse of rulers and officials. Therefore, the U.S. rise cannot be viewed as a victory over heroic and persistent resistance.

The only exception during the short years of the U.S. rise was Iraq. Iraq has been and still is the one voicing the pan-Arab and humanitarian 'no', with faith in God, people, and objectives. That was the reason for the 30-state aggression and all its destruction and siege. Despite everything it did, the United States stood helpless and defeated under the walls of the Iraqi fortress while in the zenith of its rise.

Now, the image is different. The U.S. downfall is becoming clearer. Iraq remained and its leadership and determination continued without change. The Russian awakening is clear. Somalia is witnessing the triumph of its resistance. The people of Palestine were not deceived by the false peace and its agreements and negotiators. Palestinians continue to throw stones and to fire bullets, rejecting the results of the collapse of officials and rulers.

None of us denies Washington owns huge quantities of sophisticated weapons and possesses advanced media. We all suffered from the air, missile, and media shelling, but this did not undermine the Iraqis and the Arabs, and did not deceive the Somalis and Russians for long. Army occupation does not mean occupation of the will. Monopolizing the media does not necessarily mean occupying the mind.

At the peak of the hostile media campaign that took part in the destructive aggression and siege, the faith of the Arab nation in Iraq—leader and people—increased, even though Iraqi media did not reach all Arab lands.

At the peak of the military and media invasion of Somalia, the Somali people rejected the invasion and its pretexts, even though the Somali people did not have enough bread and lack even modest mass media.

When all the hostile media that targeted Iraq mobilized against the Palestinian people, and inundated them with the promises of peace, prosperity, and stability, the Palestinian people—who lack their own media that believe in national and pan-Arab constant—were not deceived. They continued to fight the enemy as an alternative to negotiating with the enemy.

The changes demonstrated much of what Iraq had said and predicted during the peak of the collapses that shocked the world, but did not move Iraq.

The United States is in the downfall stage, and Iraq—leader and people—and Palestine—people and resistance—are in the rising stage amid a clear awakening that is demonstrated in the division in the Security Council.

U.S. Urged To End 'Intervention,' Seek Accommodation

JN2804055594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 2

[From the "Standpoint" column: "Ending Intervention Is the Solution" by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi]

[Text] The incident involving the shooting down of two U.S. helicopters by two missiles fired from two U.S. F-15 aircraft in northern Iraq reveals the evils and dangers of continued foreign intervention in the affairs of Iraq. Those evils and dangers have harmed and are harming not only Iraq, but also the intervening sides themselves and the neighboring country of Turkey, on whose territory the foreign intervention forces are stationed.

The U.S. Administration has tried to mislead many people by saying that its intervention in Iraq's internal affairs and the presence of the coalition forces in Turkey are aimed at enforcing a security zone in northern Iraq and maintaining the security and stability of the region. So, what are the results of this aggressive U.S. intervention?

One main result of this intervention is that it has undermined Iraq's sovereignty, although the U.S. Administration and the coalition forces say that they support Iraq's unity and territorial integrity and oppose any action that is prejudicial to its sovereignty.

Another result of this aggressive intervention is what we see happening in northern Iraq today; acts of murder, destruction, plunder, and sabotage of all that the 17-30 July Revolution and the autonomy institutions have built for the well-being of our Kurdish people in the Autonomous Region.

Incidents are reported every day in which government officials and foreign news correspondents become victims due to the lack of security and the physical liquidations taking place between numerous foreign elements and agent parties in northern Iraq.

Some U.S. quarters have tried to blame Iraq for the incidents taking place in that region, where conditions are unnatural and unsafe due to the continuous foreign intervention and where gangs of agents, vagabonds, and robbers have taken over control under foreign protection. Let us ask: How can any country in the world guarantee security in a region which is not under the direct control of its security organs?

Whoever follows events will discover that foreign intervention is not in anyone's interest.

This intervention, which directly affects Iraq, since it is taking place on its territory and undermining its national sovereignty, is also detrimental to the interests of the coalition states themselves, especially the neighboring country of Turkey, which Iraq has never tried to harm, and with which Iraq has sought good-neighborly relations and strong economic ties.

What has the United States gained from its continuous intervention in northern Iraq and the continued presence of its forces in Turkey?

The United States and some of its Western allies have gained nothing but disappointment and failure. As for Iraq, it overcame its ordeal a long time ago when it confronted the coalition aggression and when its struggler people resisted in the Mother of Battles and reconstructed what was destroyed by aggression.

Washington and its Western allies reaped failure and losses and its hostile program witnessed repeated defeats. Perhaps, the shooting down of the two U.S. helicopters by two U.S. fighter bombers is best proof of this disappointment and the failure of the policy of intervention in Iraq's affairs.

All the claims about safeguarding security and human rights which President Bill Clinton's advisers bragged about have all fallen at once.

Of all Iraqi territory, the region witnessing the intervention of the aggressor states is the only one lacking security.

As for the question of human rights, it is a ridiculous issue of U.S. foreign policy, because the Clinton administration, which talks about human rights, did not hesitate to kill 15 Americans and others of different nationalities, including Kurds, thinking the helicopters were Iraqi.

The U.S. Administration needs to make a general revision of its entire policy in the region, especially toward Iraq. Iraqi national unity has all the historical bases and means of continuity and viability in the present and the future. Washington itself admits this fact. Therefore, the recent incident must sound the alarm concerning the continuation of intervention. The recent U.S. decision to suspend flights over northern Iraq does not offer a solution. The correct solution which responds to the interests of Iraq, Turkey, and other states in the region is withdrawing the coalition forces from the region and building correct relations which will meet everyone's legitimate interests.

Therefore, what is correct is for the United States to stop intervening in Iraq's affairs, pull its forces out from the region and adopt new relations with Iraq based on accommodation and achieving common interests, and abandoning the policy of saber rattling and threats of intervention, because developments and facts have proven the futility of this policy.

West Assailed Over Saudi Rights 'Violation'

JN2904074994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "Human Rights and the Hypocrisy of the Imperialist West"]

[Text] The recent statement by Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, one of the founders of the Committee in Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia, in which he said that "Saudi Arabia's record of violation of human rights is the worst in the world" reveals the extent of political hypocrisy the imperialist West is practicing concerning the subject of human rights on the international level.

This is because this committee, which includes several Saudi lawyers, academics, and men of religion who oppose persecution, corruption, and violation of human rights in Saudi Arabia and whose members are subjected to various forms of murder, imprisonment, torture, and pursuit, is crying out day and night, collecting evidences and facts, and presenting documents on the Saudi regime's violations of human rights. Yet the imperialist West turns a deaf ear to these violations and laments human rights in other countries where individuals live in dignity and honor and work for their countries' development and progress.

For instance, we hear Max Van Der Stoel [UN rapporteur on Iraqi human rights] howling about alleged human rights violations in Iraq and Sudan, yet he and his overlords know that human rights are violated only in countries under imperialist domination, and that the Saudi regime provides one of the outstanding examples of real and serious violation of human rights.

The human rights committee in Saudi Arabia strives to achieve certain basic demands for the individual, and one would assume that these demands are achievable at any time and place. However, the savageness of the Saudi regime and the imperialist regimes' condoning of the savageness and tyranny to which individuals are exposed in Saudi Arabia has encouraged Fahd's regime to continue persecuting the Arab masses there.

Human rights standards are supposed to be the same everywhere in the world. They are also supposed to be harmonious with the World Declaration of Human Rights and other UN conventions and to be applied correctly, not selectively. Therefore, violating these rights in Saudi Arabia and lamenting them in Iraq, Sudan, and other countries, as Van Der Stoel and others in the U.S. State Department would have it, is unacceptable under any circumstances. Moreover, they cannot convince anyone and their actions cannot but be disapproved and ridiculed by all free men in the world.

A review of the world's record on human rights will reveal many Western scandals in this regard. The imperialist West defends the most oppressive and terroristic regimes in the world. It defends the Zionist entity, which kills Arabs en masse, plunges them into prisons and detention camps, blows up their homes, burns their farms and plantations, and expels them from their country, Palestine. The imperialist West also defends the Saudi regime, which throws strugglers into prisons or drops them from planes to be devoured by ravenous beasts in the desert. The Saudi regime also bans the freedom of speech and the establishment of political parties. Saudi Arabia has not witnessed any real parliamentary system expressing the demands and aspirations of the Arab people in the Arabian Peninsula. Furthermore, the Saudi regime is not known to respect public opinion.

This Western political hypocrisy expresses the barbaric mentality of imperialism and its disregard for human rights when the matter concerns those who are outside the circle of imperialist domination. This is well understood by freedom-loving peoples, which is why they are always struggling to achieve their basic human rights away from the mentality and aggressive plans of the imperialists, who only care about their interests and commercial markets; indeed, everything commercial.

Columnist Repudiates Iran's Claims Against Baghdad

JN2804165094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "These Iranian Claims and Calumnies"]

[Text] Iran has made claims about the arrest of several Iranian men of religion who live in Iraq. We will be revealing nothing new if we say the Tehran regime has told such obvious lies about Iraq before, told them during and after the war, and still tells them, up to this moment. Its various organizations are accustomed to making claims, telling lies, disseminating false reports, and distorting facts in order to level all kinds of accusations and to justify their instigation, subversion, and impertinent interferences. Their record in this field has a beginning but no end. It will apparently end only with their downfall and demise. This is probably because Iraq, which has exposed their aggressive tendencies, buried their criminal adventures, suppressed their well-known greed, and put an end to their calumnies, has confused them, uncovered them, and exposed their bankrupt policy and evil nature.

Iraq is accustomed to hearing these lies from the ayatollahs' regime. It expects to hear even more from time to time, because this is their way of avoiding the overwhelming political, economic, and internal problems threatening their overthrow. Therefore, we were not surprised when they readily announced that Iraq was behind the recent big explosion in the Iranian capital, although opposition Islamic Iranian groups in Pakistan claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Iraq has shown flexibility by expressing unlimited positive readiness to settle its outstanding problems with Iran by peaceful means, on the basis of noninterference in each other's affairs, and respecting each other's sovereignty. This flexibility expresses Iraq's great desire to end the dispute with Iran. It was and is met with more arrogance, evasion, and a continuing policy of treachery and interference in the internal affairs of Iraq. This is happening now in the northern part of the homeland and in other areas, via infiltration and sabotage. We have enough evidence to expose all these continuous evil and mean Iranian practices and tendencies.

Persisting in making these repeated claims against Iraq is a miserable old policy. It has lost any of its long since exposed currency, as in the case of the fact finding mission's recent statement refuting Iran's false claims about Iraqi use of chemical weapons in the marshlands.

These people had better hide in shame—if they are ashamed of themselves—now that their lies have been exposed to the whole world. We will not say that Iranians know the lies of the ayatollahs even better. But we advise Tehran's rulers, as we have often done, to tend to their own internal affairs and be sure about where they stand, instead of poking their noses into other people's business and making phony accusations. Their anxieties and misgivings are their own affair. They should try to cope with them, instead of resorting to the escapist policy that characterizes their crippled regime.

The policy of repeated claims and fabricated lies about our country, which the Iranian rulers handle so well, shows the major hatred and hostility harbored by that regime. It reflects their increasing fear of powerful Iraq, the only country that taught them a lesson, defeated their expansionist and aggressive policy, and exposed the fallacy of their resounding slogans.

Columnist: Kurdish Blood Buying 'Agents' Survival

JN2804152694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 7

["Windows" column by Diya' Hasan: "An Agent Is One Condoning the Killing of One's Own"]

[Text] Agents are too cheap to say no if the population of a part of their region comes into harm's way. Indeed, as servants doing the bidding of foreigners, they will stop at nothing to hurt and slander the worthy people guarding the homeland.

Sham patriots have overstepped the limits of decency in kowtowing to foreigners. While they knock at the doors of the West to antagonize it against their own people, as the agent Jalal Talabani is doing, they look away from what is going in the northern part of the autonomous region, where the Turkish military is waging war with heavy weapons and the most up-to-date F-15's and F-16's against Iraqi border villages.

The armed gang leaders remain tight-lipped as Turkish military forces cross the Iraqi border and engage in mass killings, with the full knowledge of those who have sold out to the foreigners. In the meantime, the Turks declare that their occupation of undesignated areas of our beloved north will last for months, until the end of summer.

We have no sympathy for some people being duped by foreigners. But we are saddened by the sight of the Kurdish parties and their collaborators sacrificing the fate of Kurds along the border with Turkey, in return for guarantees that Ankara's military forces will spare their own men.

In an unsavory transaction, agents are purchasing their survival with the blood of our Kurds, who are being slaughtered in the beloved north of our country.

Columnist Hopes Prices Mirror Drop in Dollar

JN2804153894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 7

["Windows" column by Diya' Hasan: "Real Drop of the Dollar Has Begun"]

[Text] It is good that a drop in the dollar value has begun to be felt in the market. We hope this positive phenomenon is accompanied by a similar drop in the prices of the commodities citizens need, especially food. The price of food has soared, under the pretext of the high price of the dollar.

The drop in the dollar's value in these circumstances is a sign that Iraq can adjust its economic conditions in a way that will enable it to overcome all the negative plans aimed at Iraq by outsiders. They exploit the unjust siege imposed on it and work for a decline in the value of its currency.

Such a sign emphasizes anew that the present economic difficulties will pass. They can be overcome as soon as the siege is lifted. Iraq has capabilities and resources that give it the chance to restore the health of its national currency as a basis and supporter of new progress.

What adds optimism to the vision of the future is that despite the multiparty conspiracy against the Iraqi dinar, its real value is seen in ration cards. The Iraqi fil, which is no longer in circulation, has a declared value within citizens' monthly purchases of subsidized food.

If the fil has value in circumstances of pressure and aggressive plotting, then the dinar has greater value in such circumstances, and will have increasing value in the future. The dinar is based on resources under Iraq's land. This signals future prosperity coupled with calculated economic policies and an enlightened popular awareness about how to behave and how to invest money, according to priorities and without squandering. The dinar is in good shape, and the extraordinary situation will end.

Rabin Reveals 3-Stage Golan Withdrawal Plan

TA2904173494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpt] Today, 29 April, here at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for the first time held a broad, comprehensive, and detailed discussion on the nature of the peace Israel is offering Syria. For the first time, Rabin presented the Americans with the details of the three stages of withdrawal on the Golan Heights. He did not go into full details, but the plan known as Majdal Shams First—the plan of handing the Druze villages over to Syrian control as one of the stages of the arrangement—was definitely mentioned.

Remarks of this nature have been made before in very small and closed forums, such as Rabin-Clinton or Rabin-Peres-Christopher meetings. This time, the remarks were made in a very broad forum, which is a message in itself. The Golan withdrawal is formally being taken out of the closet.

According to the plan Rabin presented, the withdrawal will be conducted in three stages. The Israeli settlements will be removed in the second stage, and the withdrawal will be completed in eight years, without specifying the line of withdrawal at this time. [passage omitted]

News Conference Follows Rabin-Christopher Meeting

TA2904155894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1431 GMT 29 Apr 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with foreign and domestic correspondents in Jerusalem on 29 April "after the second meeting between the two"—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Rabin, in English] ...the negotiations for peace between us and the Palestinians, between us and that three neighboring Arab countries. We appreciate the efforts that you have put since you became a secretary of state in bringing about solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. You spent some days now in Cairo with President Mubarak, Chairman 'Arafat, our Foreign Minister Peres, and helped to bring about the beginning of the end of the negotiations about Gaza-Jericho First. I know that a date was set for the signing of the agreement, but there are still some issues to be negotiated, formulated, and be put in the draft—not the draft, in the context of the agreement on which we will sign.

I know that now you will go to other Arab countries, especially to Syria, in an effort to revive the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria. Israel is interested in achieving peace treaties with the three neighboring Arab countries, beyond the peace with Egypt. And we appreciate your efforts in bringing the Syrian and the Israeli positions closer, and I wish you all the success on your road to Damascus. [passage omitted]

[Indistinct question by unidentified correspondent in English regarding reports on a deal to offer Syria control over Golan Druze villages]

[Rabin, in English] I do not believe that it will be advisable to me, before the secretary will go to Damascus, to discuss any details of what we brought before the secretary as our basic approach for the peace with Syria. [passage omitted]

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Shlomo Raz] I understand that the meeting with Secretary Christopher focused on the Syrian issue. Were the Americans given any additional information that will facilitate expediting the negotiations with Syria? Has Israel presented more detailed plans or the scope of the withdrawal it is willing to carry out on the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] Today, our main goal is to complete the work in Cairo in order to attain an agreed formulation of the Gaza-Jericho First accord. Such an agreement has not yet been fully drafted. Several problems which require examination and agreement still exist. The delegation headed by the deputy chief of staff will leave for Cairo on the morning of 1 May in the hope of wrapping everything up by the evening of 2 May. Several issues were left for a meeting I will hold with 'Arafat on 3 May. Those issues must be concluded in order to attain a complete and total agreement. A date was set, but there still are issues that need to be completed, agreed upon, and added to the formulation of the agreement.

In fact, today we dealt with issues that concern the negotiations with the other Arab partners—that is, the three neighboring Arab countries. Naturally, we dealt primarily with Syria. We also heard the secretary's briefing on the outcome of his meeting with King Husayn in London in the context of the resumption of the negotiations with Jordan. We presented the secretary with our stands in principle regarding our willingness and conditions for the attainment of peace with Syria. Do not expect me to give details, but the main principles of our stands are known, and I will not repeat them on this occasion. I believe that, in the absence of direct contacts, negotiations should be held through the secretary of state. He will relay our stands, and I will not do this through the media. [passage omitted]

[Indistinct question by unidentified correspondent]

[Rabin] I presented a comprehensive concept which contains the nature of peace, the principle of withdrawal with which you are familiar from my previous declarations, the stages, reference to the implementation of each step, as well as several demands from the United States. I will provide no further details. [passage omitted]

Christopher's Talks in Jerusalem, Syria Detailed

TA3004162994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Among the issues raised in the discussions U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held in Israel was the option that the agreement with Syria be implemented in stages, spread over five to eight years. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. Jerusalem believes that if al-Asad is made aware of the nature of the permanent agreement between the two countries at an early stage, he will be willing to accept the stages of the interim agreement Israel is offering.

Yesterday, the offer raised at the time by James Baker—that U.S. forces be stationed on the Golan Heights—was also discussed. The parties further discussed the economic aid Israel would receive from the United States if an agreement is signed with Syria.

Senior political sources further told our correspondent that in Damascus, Christopher will discuss bilateral Syrian-U.S. issues such as removing Syria from the list of terror sponsoring countries, Syria's status in Lebanon, and its involvement in the international drug trade. Syria will also be asked to lift its boycott on the multilateral talks.

Syria Said Ready To Recognize Security Needs

TA0205140294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 May 94

[Excerpts] In a meeting held in the prime minister's bureau this afternoon, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher presented a detailed Syrian answer regarding the continuation of the negotiations. Syria insists that the withdrawal from the Golan Heights be complete, but it is willing to recognize Israel's security needs and to discuss normalization. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 2 May carries a report by Sefi Hendler on the meeting between Christopher and Rabin, adding that "according to what we learned from political sources in Jerusalem, progress was indeed achieved in talks with Syria. Even if it is not exceptional, this is unprecedented progress on the Syrian track. This is the first time since the beginning of the negotiations with Syria that the Syrians have not rejected Israel's proposals out of hand. In their meeting, Christopher presented to Rabin Syria's answers to the security issues relating to the withdrawal. This is the first time that Syria has addressed Israel's security needs. The Syrian response is currently being examined."]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said we are at the first stages of our negotiations with Syria, therefore he cannot say whether he is optimistic or pessimistic. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports Mr. Rabin told the Labor Knesset faction Israel has not used Christopher's service for relaying to Syria a withdrawal map or the final withdrawal lines.

Yitzhaq Rabin said he was furious over the fact that a regular army battalion is forced to guard 415 Jews in Hebron instead of fighting terrorism. Mr. Rabin said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is being stretched to the limit in guarding the settlements and the Green Line instead of fighting terrorism. Rabin said that it is not Elon More [West Bank settlement] which is guarding Hadera and 'Afula, but rather the IDF. It is not the number of settlements on the Golan Heights which defend the Golan, but rather the number of tanks deployed there.

Rabin's Office Denies Opposition Charges on Golan

TA0105155094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Two opposition leaders, the Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu and Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet, accused the prime minister of lying about the Golan Heights. Netanyahu told a Tel Aviv news conference that a year ago he presented a map in the Knesset showing the stages of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and Rabin denied the remarks. Today, Netanyahu said, I have proof that it is precisely the map Christopher is presenting President al-Asad in Syria.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Refa'el Eytan submitted a paper offered to him as a basis for negotiations on his joining the coalition three months ago. He said the paper claims that no settlement would be uprooted, the Golan settlements would be strengthened, and all the completed apartments would be inhabited. These points were also shown to be false, Eytan said.

The prime minister's bureau said in response that there has not been any change in Israel's position on peace with Syria since the establishment of the government, and the commitment to hold a national referendum prior to any signing of a peace agreement with Syria that involves territorial concessions remains intact .

Peres Views Ideas on Syria Given to Christopher

TA2904172694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in the studio on 29 April—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, you met with the U.S. secretary of state today. What did Israel equip him with in anticipation of his meetings in Damascus tomorrow?

[Peres] He was given significant equipment in terms of ideas regarding the two issues on the agenda: the method of negotiations and their content. It is clear to me that it is impossible to reach agreement on the content before we determine the manner in which the negotiations will be held. In other words, no agreement can be reached without holding meetings at the level of the decision-making leadership on one hand and exchanging ideas at a discreet level on the other. In order to conduct proper negotiations, we need a quiet place in which ideas can be exchanged and a public place where the people can see that both sides seriously intend to attain peace.

[Ganor] And so far, Syria has not understood this message?

[Peres] No. So far, Damascus has been stubborn in its own way. We are not telling Damascus that it should align itself with the Israeli way of negotiating. We are telling Syria that Damascus, like Jerusalem, should conduct negotiations according to acceptable international norms.

[Ganor] Is Israel insisting that the nature of peace be defined before it determines the depth of withdrawal on the Golan?

[Peres] It is very possible that negotiations on both these issues should be held in parallel. If I tell you that one should come before the other, then one party would ask why it should be the first, and so on. We are saying to Damascus: At this time, let us determine a method that will enable us to discuss ideas and a method that will enable us to demonstrate to the people that we are heading toward peace.

[Ganor] In the meantime, there is a feeling in the Golan settlements that an Israeli-Syrian arrangement will begin with Majdal Shams first.

[Peres] There is no basis to this story. We have entered no territorial or detailed negotiations. At this stage, we are negotiating only about the manner in which we should begin real and serious negotiations.

[Ganor] Did the United States show understanding regarding the package of guarantees Israel is seeking?

[Peres] There is no doubt the Americans showed an interest in the package. I would not want to commit them to more than that. I believe Mr. Christopher's jet was given enough fuel to travel to Damascus.

[Ganor] What are the chances of resuming the Washington negotiations now that the Palestinian issue has been settled, at least in part?

[Peres] I believe there is more chance of this now because Israel has once again proven that it is seriously and honestly interested in reaching an understanding and an arrangement with the Arabs. After all, no one pressured us in the negotiations with the Palestinians; there were no thundering guns or pressure from the superpowers. The decision to reach an arrangement came from within. Incidentally, this is happening around the world. South Africa solved its problems from the inside. Communism was eliminated from within. There is no one out there to apply pressure. Each nation should decide for itself where it wants to go, the price it is willing to pay for this, and the stages it wants to go through in order to solve its problems.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, what reality will prevail in Gaza and in Israel starting 4 May?

[Peres] It will be different from anything we have known over the past 46 years. We left Gaza once, but we were replaced by the Egyptians. This is the first time we will leave most of the Gaza Strip and be replaced by Gaza residents exercising self-rule, self-management, and their own responsibility. Look, the Palestinian nation has never known the taste of being a nation. It has never had a territorial address. This is the first time the Palestinians will have a piece of reality with a territorial address and the authority of an interim government, of self-rule. This is a great thing for them.

Rabinovich Comments on Ideas Presented to Syria

TA3004090394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Interview with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich by Ze'ev Kohen at the Tel Aviv studio on 30 April—live]

[Text] [Kohen] Christopher is conferring today, perhaps right now, with President al-Asad with the package from Israel under his arm. Does that package contain anything that can bring about a breakthrough in the stalemate?

[Rabinovich] We think so. The term package can arouse the wrong associations because it has a physical connotation. We should talk about a series of issues and positions which together constitute a whole. In our view, the parcel is such that if the Syrians respond to it as a whole and to its components adequately, there can be a breakthrough in the negotiations.

[Kohen] In reference to the physics of the package, as you referred to it, what does it contain: maps and lines or just principles?

[Rabinovich] The Americans are not carrying any map with delineated lines. Some of the things uttered are broad speculations. They went with ideas and impressions, and I think that these ideas are sufficient for a very interesting conversation to be conducted with President al-Asad in Damascus.

[Kohen] To the best of your knowledge, did Rabin's public pronouncement about his readiness to evacuate settlements have an impact in Damascus?

[Rabinovich] I think it must have strengthened among the Syrians the feeling that should have been aroused there a long time ago, that we are a serious partner, that we are interested in a settlement, that we give it serious thought, that we are prepared to pay a reasonable price for a good agreement. The other side, however, is very tough and does not always understand us fully. It he does not understand how an open, democratic, parliamentary system like ours operates. The fact that the direct contacts with the other side is very, very limited makes mutual revelation and understanding difficult. Therefore, the intensity of some of our moves, proposals, gestures, are not always sufficiently understood by the other side.

[Kohen] Sir, we disclosed a formula under the headline "Majdal Shams First." What can you tell us about it? Is that the bridge that will permit us to cross the river?

[Rabinovich] I said before that many of the speculations being heard in recent days are exaggerated, some speculative and some based on incorrect information. I think it is important right now not to focus on any detail, no matter piquant it is, but to think in more conceptual terms about the parcel with its ideas. We must perhaps stress one point: Majdal Shams is a village in which people live.

[Kohen] No, we are talking about all the Druze villages, with Majdal Shams only serving as the headline.

[Rabinovich] I do not want to focus on any village or area. I want to talk about the fact that when such negotiations are being conducted, we do not talk only in abstract terms. We should always remember that people and their fate are involved. We, as negotiators and anybody else involved, have to remember that such speculations involve the future of people.

[Kohen] I understand, of course, Mr. Ambassador, that you cannot refer concretely to the package or Majdal Shams First, but in an academic analysis, can you see the advantages such a formula has for al-Asad, as well as for Rabin?

[Rabinovich] I must temporarily forfeit the pleasure of an academic analysis because I am currently dealing with concrete negotiations and not academic life, but as I said previously, the package of ideas Secretary Christopher is carrying to Damascus is interesting and contains more than enough to permit the Syrians, if they wish to do so, to respond in an adequate fashion, and thereby to get the negotiating cart moving forward.

[Kohen] Ambassador Rabinovich, what influence do you think the time element has on the negotiations with the Syrians? Is a situation of continued stalemate—for instance until 1996, the date of the Israeli general elections—possible?

[Rabinovich] Of course, a deadlock and slow progress can go on without a time limit. In these negotiations we have never manifested to the Syrians a feeling that we are in a hurry. I think that from time to time the Syrians have learned that time is not a one-dimensional element and does not necessarily work against Israel or impose pressures on us. I think that last year the Syrians dragged their feet in the autumn and early summer and the outcome was that they found themselves facing the Oslo agreement with a different element. I think that was a bitter lesson for them, showing them that time does not necessarily move in one direction. From time to time we recall in a very relaxed way, without being pressured by time, that this window of opportunity is not unlimited time wise so that everybody involved in these negotiations remembers it. But, we do not have and do not transmit a feeling of concern or panic because of the passing of time.

[Kohen] Within the framework of Christopher's demands from al-Asad is there a demand to hold a summit meeting with Prime Minister Rabin?

[Rabinovich] There are no demands. The diplomatic and negotiating style of the Americans in general and Secretary Christopher in particular, is not one of making demands and applying pressures. He acts more like an attorney who transfers, not in a mechanical fashion, the positions of the sides, points to overlapping areas, and from time to time points to an interesting point where the sides meet, but he does not make demands or apply pressure. The Americans, like us, believe that more personal contact at the political echelon is good for the negotiations. This is for two reasons: First, meetings at the political level are part of the normalization process and evince a message to both societies—Syrian and Israeli—that their leaderships are in a process of conciliation, which is important. Second, in direct negotiations between leaders, who can make decisions, faster progress is sometimes possible since gaps can be closed by eliminating an emissary and transmittal time. That position is highly acceptable to us and I think is also acceptable to the Americans, and in fact, any objective observer of the negotiations.

[Kohen] To conclude, Mr. Ambassador, in your view, is their any chance that Christopher will return to Jerusalem early in the week with an iota of good tidings from Damascus?

[Rabinovich] I do not want to make forecasts, but if I look objectively at the package of ideas he took with him, then it would be very disappointing if the Syrians do not give him an adequate response in order to create an impetus in these negotiations.

Cabinet Authorizes Rabin, Peres To Sign PLO Accord

TA0105152294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] The cabinet is preparing for the signing ceremony of the agreement with the PLO in Cairo on Wednesday [4 May]. Today, the cabinet authorized Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to summarize the last details of the agreement and to sign it. The closure on the territories will continue out of security considerations, without any connection to the signing of the agreement. Our correspondent Sefi Hendler reports from the cabinet sessionz:

[Begin recording] [Hendler] Yitzhaq Rabin, as usual, was less than enthusiastic about briefing the cabinet ministers on the more significant political points included in Israel's proposals to Syria. Rabin refrained from addressing the subject throughout the entire meeting. Minister Yosi Sarid was not offended, asserting that secrecy was essential at this stage.

[Sarid] I think that the Syrian track necessitates almost total discretion to promote the negotiations' chances of succeeding. Right now, everyone should only know what he absolutely must. I think that whoever is supposed to know does.

[Hendler] Since the Syrian issue was not discussed, most of the cabinet session was devoted to the Palestinian track. The agreement due to be signed on Wednesday by Rabin and 'Arafat has yet to be fully formulated. Rabin and Peres told the ministers that four matters were still unresolved: The size of the Jericho area, problems with regard to the autonomy's jurisdiction, the Palestinian demand to station a policeman on the Allenby bridge, and the question of responsibility for the Gaza Strip's southern beaches. Since these issues have not yet been resolved, the cabinet gave Rabin and Peres a general authorization to conclude and sign the agreement.

At today's session, the prime minister and the chief of staff both mentioned the problematic nature of the transitional period between Israel's withdrawal and the assumption of control by the Palestinians. We are withdrawing and they have not yet assumed responsibility, Rabin said. The prime minister complained that the Palestinians failed to attend meetings and were holding up the transfer of civilian and security responsibilities. Ministers Sarid and Tzur commented on this at the end of the cabinet session.

[Tzur] The PLO is not demonstrating orderly working habits. We do not expect the coming days to be very pleasant. The transitional period will be difficult and I do not think that there are any situation analyses or expectations that terror attacks will cease. After the agreement is signed, we will have to implement a rapid transfer of civilian and military responsibilities. Clearly, the fact that the PLO has not primed itself for an orderly transfer will make the transition even more difficult.

[Sarid] There is cause for concern but also a great deal of hope. I think that the general picture is good and positive. In several days we will finally be out of the Gaza Strip. That is the main thing. That is what we promised and are about to implement. That is the first change in the situation on the ground since 1967 and we must take an optimistic and positive view.

[Hendler] The prime minister added that there was no intention for the time being to lift the closure on the territories, which was motivated by security considerations totally unconnected to the signing of the agreement.

The prime minister also devoted a large part of today's cabinet session to the issue of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] MIA's and POW's. The ministers received the impression that Rabin spoke with sorrow and pain about the mistakes made in the handling of the affair. Rabin noted that Yasir 'Arafat had given his word, his parole d'honneur [last two words in French], to help locate the soldiers missing in action since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 1 May adds: "At the meeting, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq urged speeding up the evacuation of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area in view of the lack of coordination between Israel and the PLO on the transfer of power and land. The chief of staff said the territory should be evacuated as quickly as possible because the lack of coordination could endanger IDF soldiers. He also said the Palestinians have long-range plans to set up an independent state, which will include Jerusalem, and they want to realize the right of return. Minister Ora Namir had reservations about these remarks."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 1 May reports: "Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said that it might become necessary to evacuate certain settlements on the Golan Heights; however, Israel must not implement a full withdrawal. Tzur expressed the assessment that a full withdrawal would be a mistake because the security of the northern settlements could not be guaranteed without an Israeli presence on the Golan Heights."]

Peres on Lifting Closure, Freeing Hamas Leader

TA2904184894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the studio on 29 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sukenik] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal will be completed some two to three weeks after the agreement with the PLO is signed. Will the closure imposed on the territories be lifted?

[Peres] If the knives are set aside, the closure will be lifted. This time, however, they—not just we—will have an interest in removing the knives. They will be in charge of the well-being of the people. They will be in charge of their income, their security, and they will have to maintain relations with Israel that enable them to resume work in Israel. Previously, a Palestinian interest that focused on opposite goals was created. This time they have an interest in running their self-government.

[Sukenik] For example, do you foresee the possibility that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the founder of Hamas, will be released from prison?

[Peres] If Ahmad Yasin announces he is for peace and against violence—and not that he opposes violence only within the territories, as he previously said—I am for releasing him. He is an old man with paralyzed legs. All that he has left is a mouth and a head. If he calls on his people to stop terrorism and embark on the path of negotiations, we will sit with him. [passage omitted]

IDF Bans Settlers From Entering Jericho As of 4 May

TA0105082894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] The commander of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command informed the Jordan Valley settlers that as of Wednesday [4 May] morning they will not be permitted to enter the Jericho area. If they have to travel to Jerusalem they will have to travel on the security road adjacent to the border, which will be used to bypass Jericho. This was said by David Elhayani, head of the Jordan Valley settlements committee, to our correspondent Gil Litman. He said the settlers are extremely concerned about what is expected to take place after the establishment of autonomy in Jericho. He added that the settlers will launch protest actions against the establishment of the Jericho autonomous enclave.

Road Through Jericho To Remain Open

TA0105130794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Reacting to claims by Jordan Valley settlers that they would no longer be permitted to drive through Jericho as of Wednesday [4 May], an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command spokesman clarified that there would be no traffic changes in the Jericho area after the inception of autonomy. The spokesman clarified that the road through Jericho would remain open to Israeli vehicles.

Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, nevertheless decided to accede to the settlers' request and to open the road along the border near Jordan, which is currently being renovated.

Gur Says No Special Unit To Handle Settlers

TA0205110794 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 2 May 94 p 1

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[Excerpt] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur told the Elqana Local Council plenum yesterday that "the Gaza-Jericho agreement will not serve as a precedent for the future agreement on the rest of Judaea and Samaria." Gur asserted that "this is also the view held by the prime minister."

Gur toured Elqana yesterday and participated in a special local council meeting.

Gur added that "a long time" will pass between the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and an agreement on Palestinian self-administration throughout the rest of Judaea and Samaria. Once again, Gur noted that this is also the prime minister's position.

Deputy Minister Gur also categorically denied the report that a special Army unit will be established to deal with the Jewish settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and described it as "complete nonsense." He also denied rumors of an intention to distribute identification tags to Jewish settlers to facilitate their passage through security checkpoints. [passage omitted]

King, al-Asad Said to Agree on Ministers' Meeting

JN0105120394 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 2 May 94 p 1

[Text] In addition to extending condolences on the death of Her Majesty Queen Zayn al-Sharaf, the Jordanian queen mother, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Jordan on Thursday [28 April] was a political opportunity to exchange views with Jordan on developments in the Arab situation and Jordanian-Syrian coordination on the political settlement. This is especially true in view of the fact that the visit coincided with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's regional tour and the announcement by Israel and the PLO that they have reached an agreement on the implementation of the Oslo agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, and that the agreement will be signed on Wednesday under U.S.-Egyptian sponsorship.

During their meeting, King Husayn and President al-Asad stressed adherence to a comprehensive and final solution. They emphasized that Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese coordination will continue and that any new separate deals that would weaken other positions will be avoided.

Jordan explained that it rejected and continues to reject U.S. proposals on the formation of a four-way Egyptian-Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian committee whose task would be to help implement the self-rule agreement.

Jordan proposed that a six-way committee be set up within the framework of the Washington negotiations to discuss appropriate ways to link the Palestinian self-rule agreement to other tracks of bilateral negotiations.

For this six-way committee, which would be comprised of representatives from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel, to advance the peace negotiations on all tracks, including the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Jordan believes that U.S. and Russian participation will be useful and will help bring views closer. However, the United States, Israel, and Egypt believe that any formula of this kind means a return to an international peace conference. The three parties believe that a solution can only be reached within a bilateral framework following the example of the Camp David and Oslo agreements. Moreover, Christopher told King Husayn that Arab coordination prevents parties from moving toward separate settlements, for bilateral negotiations are held in isolation from other parties and it would be faster to reach bilateral solutions.

In their meeting, which was held during a working luncheon, the Jordanian monarch and the Syrian president agreed that a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab parties to the negotiations will be held in Amman soon after the conclusion of the U.S. secretary of state's tour. The aim of the meeting will be to assess the results of this tour and to adopt a unified stand on the resumption of the bilateral negotiations, which are supposed to resume in Washington in mid-May.

According to both sides' assessment, the Jordanian-Syrian meeting was successful. It was agreed to intensify contacts to emphasize coordination.

New Measures for West Bank Arrivals Take Effect

JN2904142494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has announced his ministry has decided to reconsider all measures pertaining to the arrival of West Bankers and Gazans in the country. He said all Interior Ministry organizations will apply new measures in this regard as of the day after tomorrow, Sunday [1 May].

Hammad made these remarks during a tour of the al-Husayn Bridge this morning. During his tour, he inspected the reception halls for arrivals and departures. He also listened to the requests of arrivals from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hammad added: Pursuant to the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn, and in light of the inspirational and culturally significant statements made by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan last week on the need to reconsider the regulations issued by the Interior Ministry with regard to the residence of West Bankers and Gazans in Jordan, the Interior Ministry has decided to thoroughly reconsider all measures and regulations issued by the Interior Ministry in this regard. The new measures will facilitate things for arrivals.

The interior minister said all the measures enforced thus far were intended to firmly promote the steadfastness of the kinsfolk in the occupied territories, safeguard Jordan's national security, and thwart the implementation of displacement schemes the Israeli occupation troops sought to carry out.

Hammad went on to say: The Interior Ministry has enforced the old regulations pertaining to the residence and transit of West Bankers and Gazans within the context of Jordan's firm pan-Arab outlook vis-a-vis the kinsfolk and brothers. Jordan, which was careful to keep the bridges with the occupied territories open since 1967, has contributed to maintaining pan-Arab cohesion and deepening the pan-Arab sentiments of the kinsfolk, who are holding out in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories, although this policy was the object of criticism by some parties in the past.

Hammad said: Jordan, which is proud of its Hashemite leadership, has striven to promote the spirit of Arab renaissance and sought to make Jordan an exemplary homeland that embraces pan-Arab sentiments, and that inspires others with its ideas, instead of exporting them, as His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has noted.

Jordan's historical ties with the kinsfolk in our occupied homeland have always required the best formula and best way to mitigate the agonies brought about by the occupation.

Hammad added: Given the fact that the reasons that prompted the Interior Ministry to issue its old regulations are about to become a thing of the past, and since the Palestinian brothers are about to realize their aspirations, the Interior Ministry, in implementation of directives issued by His Majesty King Husayn, will revoke these regulations. Besides, it will strive to reconsider the regulations governing the renewal of the passports carried by West Bankers and Gazans. It will also introduce the system of cards [not further identified]. This will allow for the movement of students across the bridges to further their education. The ministry will later announce additional measures in this regard. The Interior Ministry will thoroughly examine the usefulness of using cards. The new regulations will take effect as of the day after tomorrow, Sunday.

Salamah Hammad began his tour this morning by chairing a meeting at the Bridges Administration Office. The meeting was attended by the officials concerned. The interior minister informed them of the new regulations. He was also briefed on the measures the Bridges Administration Office will enforce this summer.

During the meeting, Colonel 'Abd-al-Salam al-Ja'afirah, director of the Bridge Security Centers, said the bridges will remain open for 18 hours every day, and that there will be a chance to make reservations ahead of the actual crossing time, to ease the burdens placed on citizens. He said the number of reservation offices in all the governorates will be increased.

The minister of interior also inspected the new reception hall, which has room for 600 passengers. He also met with departures and listened to their remarks. He received several arrivals, including a delegation of Gazans that came to offer condolences on the death of the late Queen Zayn al-Sharaf.

Minister Details New Instructions

JN3004162994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has issued the following instructions on the entry, passage, and residence of West bankers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan [HKJ], which will take effect on Sunday, 1 May 1994:

1. The restrictions imposed on West Bankers aged 26 to 36 years will be lifted. They will be allowed to enter the HKJ without obtaining a prior permit from the [Interior Ministry's] Follow-up and Inspection Department [FID] if they carry open-ended permits issued by the occupation authorities.

2. Persons on whom the provisions of Article 1 apply and who were previously summoned will be handed back their documents together with the documents of their sponsors, which were held by the FID.

3. Persons aged 16 to 26 years who carry time-limited permits issued by the occupation authorities will be allowed to enter the HKJ for one month without obtaining prior permission from the FID.

4. The Bridges Security Detachments Directorate [BSDD] will not hold any documents belonging to the arrivals who come in accordance with the open-ended or time-limited permits.

5. West Bankers will be allowed to study at HKJ schools if one of their parents does not carry a family reunion permit issued by the occupation authorities. Students will be allowed to move to HKJ schools if their parents carry yellow bridge registry cards.

6. Persons previously turned back by the FID for not complying with prior instructions will be allowed to return to the Kingdom.

7. Husbands of Jordanian citizens from the West Bank who do not carry family reunion cards will be allowed to reside in the Kingdom as long as their permits issued by the occupation authorities are valid. Wives who carry the green bridge registry cards will be allowed to reside with their Jordanian husbands.

8. The BSDD will allow the arrivals to stay for the duration of time they wish on condition that the permit issued by the occupation authorities is kept valid.

9. In all cases, all persons who carry family reunion permits issued by the occupation authorities should keep these permits valid. The FID should follow up this matter.

10. These instructions will take effect as of 1 May 1994. Prior instructions conflicting with these instructions are canceled.

Minister Denies Paris Deal Encroaches on PLO Ties

JN0105080894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 May pp 1, 10

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Minister of Finance Sami Qammuh on Saturday [30 April] credited the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with enhancing the symbolism of Palestinian authority through the signing of the PLO-Israeli economic agreement without negating the economic accord that the Palestinians signed with Jordan in January.

Mr. Qammuh, in an interview with the JORDAN TIMES , said the government's initial reading of the Paris agreement "shows that the PLO has gained more than anticipated...it is a step achieved."

The documents, of which only excerpts were made available to the press, is reportedly 15 pages long and deal with the different aspects of the Palestinian economy in detail.

"There are new areas and new grounds for Palestinian authority in the agreement," Mr. Qammuh said in reference to the accord, which was signed by Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and PLO negotiator Ahmad Quray' in a ceremony attended by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe at his ministry's headquarters in Paris.

Mr. Qammuh pointed especially to the Palestinians gaining independent economic decisions over taxation, banks and currency, stamps and customs.

He said the economic pact does not negate an economic agreement between Jordan and the PLO which was signed here in January. "The PLO-Israeli agreement is not in contradiction with the Jordan-PLO agreement," he said.

He said Jordan views positively any improvement which promotes the independent economic decision of the Palestinians.

But the minister's positive reaction was not shared by economists and other officials who said that the agreement amounted to the PLO sanctioning the holding of the Palestinian economy "hostage to the Israeli economy."

The points which were positively received by Mr. Qammuh appeared to be the same as those that the critics picked up on to indicate a new Palestinian tilt away from Jordan and towards Israel.

Critics of the agreement said its different articles were geared to the benefit of the Israeli economy creating an "economic integration between the Palestinian entity and Israel" and treating Jordan like any other Arab country dealing with the new Palestinian entity.

Conceding that the agreement holds symbols of authority for the emerging Palestinian entity, the critics maintain that while the Israelis "are spend thrift with symbolism, they are stingy when it comes to the actual implementation."

"There is not a single positive element in this agreement," one economist contended.

The agreement, he argued, has singled out the Israeli shekel as the legal tender in the areas under Palestinian authority and "has dumped the Jordanian dinar with other currencies."

According to the agreement, pending final arrangements, the Israeli shekel "will continue to constitute a legal means for payment in the autonomy's areas side by side with other currencies."

Banks which were initially expected to come under the authority of the Central Bank of Jordan "are now going to be run by the Palestinian monetary authority which is still under an Israeli authority," the economist said.

Where Jordan hoped to have an advantage, trade between the East and West Bank, Israel and the PLO had agreed to free movement of goods at what appears to be the same prices as those offered in Israel while placing Jordan in a situation where its exports to the territories will be taxed.

"Jordan will be dealt with as if it is exporting to Israel," another economist said.

A senior official defending the agreement said that the critics were looking at the agreement only from one angle and forgetting that this agreement is between Israel and the PLO and that that is "only one front" of the over all picture.

"It is not a zero sum theory," said the official, who asked for anonymity. "Any improvement on the living and work conditions of Palestinians is good for us," the official said.

He said that the opening up of trade between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, at any level, is an improvement on the current situation where "there is almost no trade."

He said that the agreement provides for a favoured trade status for Jordan and Egypt ahead of other Islamic and Arab countries.

"What is happening is that a new market is opening up across the border," the official said. "Instead of being fearful and criticising the situation from afar we should be ready to take advantage of the situation."

"There can be no progress or success when we are crippled by fear," the senior official said.

Under the Jordan-PLO agreement, the senior official said, it was expected that the Jordanian dinar was not going to be the main currency in the occupied territories and that the Central Bank of Jordan was only going to supervise the banks "until the time the Palestinians were able to establish their own monetary authority."

"The agreement never said that Jordan will take over the monetary affairs of the Palestinian entity... It is still going to take some time before the Palestinans establish a monetary authority and the Jordan-PLO agreement stands until that time," he added.

Critics, the official said, have to understand that "we in Jordan want them (the PLO) to have authority and to supervise their own affairs."

Observer To Attend Disarmament Talks in Qatar

JN3004195394 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 30 Apr 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Jordan will send an observer to a round of multilateral talks on Middle East disarmament scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, this week. Diplomatic sources said Jordan will continue to send low-key participants to the multilateral talks until action was taken on the siege of al-'Aqabah.

This is the second time that Jordan will be staying away from active participation in the Middle East multilateral talks since it announced that rejoining the talks hinged upon an end to interceptions by Western warships of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels.

The naval inspections, which are part of the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, have cost the Kingdom $1.3 billion in extra freight and delays caused by diversions of ships from the port of al-'Aqabah.

Spokesman Outlines Position on al-'Aqabah Blockade

PM2904144694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Agreement To Solve Problem of Jordanian al-'Aqabah Blockade"]

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Jordanian Foreign Ministry yesterday announced that the proposal currently raised to solve the problem of the blockade imposed on al-'Aqabah port. which—so it seems—enjoys the Americans' approval, is actually a Jordanian proposal.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Ahmad Mubayyidin, spokesman for the ministry, said that the proposal says that an international company—namely the British company Lloyd's Register, which is not a commercial company—would inspect the ships and cargo in port, not at sea as is happening now. He denied that there is a specific date for implementing this proposal. He added: Of course, legally, the blockade does not concern the United States in particular, as it falls under the powers of the UN Security Council sanctions committee. Thus consultations must be held within the framework of this committee in order to take a decision to begin implementing the proposal, which stipulates that al-'Aqabah-bound ships should not be subjected to obstacles or search measures by U.S. Navy units or any other units, and that these ships should arrive in the port very easily. Cargo should be examined inside the port by the international company's representative in cooperation with a competent Jordanian committee. [passage omitted]

10 Parties Demand End to al-'Aqabah Inspections

JN3004072294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Apr 94, p 3

[Text] Amman—Ten Jordanian Islamist and leftist parties have joined hands to demand a total end to all inspections of Jordan-bound cargo as part of the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq and called on Arab, Islamic, non-aligned and African countries to support the Kingdom's stand.

In a rare joint statement, the 10 parties, including the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF) and mostly leftist parties, did not directly refer to the agreement Jordan has reached with the U.S. to replace the sea-based inspections by a U.S.-led naval task force with a land-based sanctions verifications regime.

But it rejected "any inspections in Jordanian territory, whether at sea or land," as "and infringement of Jordan's sovereignty,"

Official party spokesmen were not immediately available for comment, but party sources said the statement was deliberately left vague since the 10 groups, which espouse varying ideologies ranging from Islamic law, socialism, Ba'thism and pan-Arab nationalism, could not agree on a unified stand to reject the land-based verifications before the modalities of the arrangement were known.

The sources said some of the parties would not outrightly reject the land-based arrangement as long as it is conducted under the direct supervision of the United Nations with no American intervention while others did not want any inspections in any form of shape, they said.

"Some of the parties are aware that for the moment there is no escape from some kind of mechanism at al-'Aqabah and they wanted to reflect that position in the statement," said one source. "But there is unanimous agreement that the inspections are unacceptable to Jordan and should be rejected as a form of pressure aimed at the Kingdom and its people."

After a meeting with His Majesty King Husayn in London on Monday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Washington would support, subject to some "fine tuning," the Jordanian proposal that Lloyds Register of London conduct the sanctions-verifications at the port of al-'Aqabah.

Lloyds Register of London is described as a non-profit, independent international organisation with no political affiliations.

The American acceptance of the proposal came after more than three years of Jordanian complaints that the sanctions were not only causing heavy economic losses to the Kingdom but also reflected distrust of the Kingdom despite its record of adherence to U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The U.S. agreed to the proposal to change the sanctions regime nearly one month after Jordan made its return to peace talks with Israel contingent on an end to inspections.

The two-page statement of the 10 parties, issued Thursday, said the continued inspections were a "punishment for the stand that Jordan and its people adopted during the Gulf crisis" by calling for an Arab solution to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and refusing foreign intervention on Arab soil.

The inspections "constitute an aggression against the Jordanian people, who have paid a heavy price for the Gulf crisis in the form of poverty, high unemployment and social and economic problems," it said, adding that "Zionist domination" of the region through pressuring Jordan into signing peace agreements with Israel was the objective of the continued blockade of al-'Aqabah.

The statement, a copy of which was made available to the JORDAN TIMES, called on members of the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and African countries to "make their voice heard" in support of the Jordanian rejection of the inspections which the parties described as piracy.

It also warned the United Nations, the Security Council, the United States and its allies which are party to the Red Sea inspections that the continued siege of al-'Aqabah would on "deepen people's hostility."

The 10 parties which signed the statement control 20 seats, including the 16 of the Islamic Action Front, in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament.

The signatories to the statement were: the Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, the Jordan Arab Democratic Party, the Jordanian Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Progressive Democratic Party, the Unionist Arab Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Unity Party and al-Mustaqbal.

Paper Applauds Rejection of Partial Settlement

JN0105113694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 May 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Peace Cannot Come In Pieces"]

[Text] The constant, principled position reiterated by Damascus yesterday, prior to the talks between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and President Hafiz al-Asad, has given the peace process a comprehensive pan-Arab dimension, set it on the right track, and revealed Israel's false allegations and gimmicks to circumvent the foundations and concepts of the just and comprehensive peace aspired to by the Arab parties.

The Syrian rejection of partial and separate settlements and secret negotiations and deals emphasizes the fact that peace is an indivisible whole and cannot be achieved in bits and pieces by dividing withdrawal and scheduling stages. The land-for-peace principle cannot, under any other name, stipulate giving back part of the territory in exchange for peace; full peace entails full withdrawal, giving each party its rights, and uprooting the causes of tension and conflict.

The Israeli concept, which takes after the shylock model of barter, wants to give back the occupied Arab territories in pieces. In return, it wants to exact the full price of peace all at once. Such exposed maneuvers and names such as "Majdal-Shams First," like Gaza-Jericho First, will not deceive the other Arab fronts, which do not accept half solutions and only seek comprehensive and just peace in return for withdrawal from the occupied territories—all of the occupied territories—without any division, bargaining, or flexibility.

The Oslo accord was concluded under special circumstances and considerations that have to do with the reality and considerations of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people under occupation. It was also the outcome of political circumstances and the suffering of a people under an unjust military rule. This accord, however, does not constitute a formula that can be promoted on the other Arab fronts.

Just as Israel withdrew fully from Sinai under the peace agreement with Egypt, the solution of the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese tracks cannot depart from this framework in all its political details and facts.

The three Arab parties are determined to reject half solutions and peace in pieces in adherence with the land-for-peace principle. They believe that peace does not stand a chance of survival if it is not a comprehensive peace in return for a comprehensive withdrawal from all the Arab territories, without exception.

Such a comprehensive Arab strategy, stressed by His Majesty King Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Amman a few days ago, constitutes a basis for the Arab negotiator in his quest for a just and comprehensive peace.

Therefore, the U.S. role in advancing the peace process should not be limited to conveying and propagating Israeli ideas; it should correct the course of these ideas and reject any attempt to circumvent the land-for-peace principle and the Madrid framework, which is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The U.S. initiative that launched the peace process almost three years ago was originally based on these principles.

Hizballah Paper Criticizes U.S. Ambassador

NC0105095994 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 11

[News Analysis: "The U.S. Move and Its Ramifications"]

[Text]

We Are Still Holding Contacts With Christian Parties, Including the Lebanese Forces. [Signed] U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley

U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley is regarded as the most active U.S. ambassador who has served in Lebanon, in terms of official and political meetings.

Ambassador Mark Hambley, who had previously served in Beirut as a second-category staff member of the embassy, came to Lebanon having served in two areas of particular importance. Before assuming the post of consul in Alexandria, Hambley was the U.S. charge d'affaires in Tunis.

Both Alexandria and Tunis are vital areas for the Americans. Tunis is quite important and vital for the U.S. and Israeli intelligence due to the strong ties between the Tunisian regime and these intelligence services. This fact enabled both services to monitor the Palestinian activities continuously. Alexandria, an Egyptian town, is regarded as an extremely important area by the Americans and Israelis, because it is located near Libya and Palestine and overlooks the Mediterranean. Alexandria can play a great mediation role in the projected settlement process.

According to available information, the designation of Hambley as U.S. ambassador in Beirut to succeed Ryan Crocker was based on his service in Alexandria and Tunis. He came to Beirut with a file containing ample information about the Lebanese situation. After his arrival, Hambley formed a working team at the embassy to conduct studies and political analyses to be dispatched to Washington.

Knowledgeable sources view the U.S. move as indicating exploration of the stances of all forces and parties and of having first-hand information on the Lebanese situation.

Furthermore, Hambley's action represents a strong move into the Lebanese domestic policy, particularly the Christians, to reassure them that the United States supports them. This explains Hambley's keenness on continuing contacts with the various Christian parties, particularly the Lebanese Forces, despite the latter's dissolution. This is interference in the Lebanese situation, because the existing contacts between Hambley and the Lebanese Forces one way or another represent a rejection of the Lebanese authorities' decision to dissolve the Lebanese Forces, and represent a U.S. attempt to buoy them up in service of the hostile designs.

Other information indicates that Ambassador Hambley is holding continuous meetings with Christian opposition figures and he is sending several signals to Ja'ja'.

Hizballah Parliamentarians Comment

NC0105190094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 4

[Excerpts] The Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance [Hizballah parliamentary group] has described U.S. Beirut Ambassador Mark Hambley's moves as "unacceptable defiance of our people's feelings" and indicated that "it is the misfortune of our time that the government is in a comatose state" regarding what it described as the U.S. Ambassador's provocations. [passage omitted]

The bloc noticed that Ambassador Hambley's actions with respect to official quarters and his conveying to them of warnings and threatening messages under the guise of calming the situation and self-restraint aim "to undermine our people's steadfastness and their valiant resistance, which alone shoulders the responsibility for liberation and the honor of confronting the enemy's designs."

The bloc said "we believe these suspicious moves by this U.S. diplomat constitute unacceptable defiance of our people's feelings and impermissible intervention in the country's domestic affairs. It is the misfortune of our time that the government is in a comatose state regarding the U.S. ambassador's provocations. It is natural that this ambassador not be allowed to hurt the people's feelings and insult their dignity." [passage omitted]

Hizballah on Media Decision, Peace Process

NC0105083594

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic on 15 April publishes on page 5 an approximately 200-word report on a speech delivered by Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim during a ceremony held at Beirut's Arab University on Wednesday, 13 April, to honor excellent students. Shaykh Qasim says in part: "The media ban imposed by the Lebanese Government aims to deflect attention from the case of the perpetrators of the church massacre, and to pave the way for Lebanon to normalize relations with Israel."

On the same page, the paper publishes an approximately 350-word report on a speech by 'Ammar al-Musawi, deputy head of Hizballah's Political Bureau, at a ceremony organized by Hizballah on the occasion marking the 14th anniversary of the martyrdom of Scholar Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr. Al-Musawi says: "The law on the reorganization of the media is primarily aimed at silencing the voices rejecting the peace plan with the enemy." He adds that "the resistance is the chief loser from closing radios, because without radios, the resistance cannot communicate with its masses and society." Al-Musawi calls "for confronting the government's decision which portends grave consequences."

Pointing to the ongoing "capitulationist" process, al-Musawi says: "Sixty people were recently killed in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. What have the Arab rulers done regarding crime?" The Hizballah official goes on to say: "The Arab regimes were more embarrassed than the Zionists by this massacre. This is because the Arabs made a treasonous decision. These crimes expose their treason and collusion. What kind of peace are they talking about after this massacre which was committed during the ongoing negotiations which are imposed on the Arabs? Had this peace been a true peace, they would have allowed us to have our say. But they want to repress every voice in the name of stability. They are accusing us of plotting against Lebanon. Even if for the sake of argument we agree that the logic of negotiations is sound, we would still be wrong to lay down our weapons while the enemy owns the most sophisticated planes in the world and even nuclear weapons."

On another memorial ceremony for martyr al-Sadr held in Burj al-Barajinah in Beirut, AL-'AHD publishes on page 5 an approximately 650-word report on an address by Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, member of the Hizballah leadership council. After underlining the feats of the martyr and criticizing the "plot" against the media, Shaykh Yazbik says: "This plot is a coup against the nationalists in Lebanon and a conspiracy to abrogate Lebanon." He adds: "We will not allow this plot to be implemented against our kinsfolk and people." Shaykh Yazbik adds: "If they believe that they are paving the way for a peace settlement, I tell them that they will not succeed in doing so. Our reply to the Zionist enemy's attacks and massacres will be carried out in the form of suicide operations by the mujahidin in the occupied territories and in the form of qualitative operations by the Islamic resistance."

In a similar memorial ceremony held in Damascus, Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah delivered an approximately 2,000-word speech. After devoting the bulk of the address to the occasion, Fadlallah turns to the ongoing peace process. He says: "There is much talk, and as al-Sadat used to say, that there can be no solution without the United States. We have seen the U.S. solution in Egypt, and we also know the U.S. solution everywhere, including the current one in Palestine. The U.S. solution is the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which gives the Palestinians neither a homeland nor a state." Continuing, Fadlallah says: "They say that innocent people were killed in al-Ibrahimi Mosque and in the Israeli bus. But is there any Jew in Palestine whom you could call innocent? The issue is not one of carrying arms. He who seized the Palestinian land is an enemy. He who confiscated the Palestinian house and built a settlement on the Palestinian land is an enemy. But the United States wants to convince us that they are innocent." Fadlallah adds: "The United States wants to place the entire region under its control, including the region's riches, human beings, land, policies, economy, and security. The United States seeks to revoke everything called the Arab world."

In a 1,000-word statement on page 6 issued at the end of its ordinary meeting, the Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance [Hizballah's parliamentary group], notes that "the government's decision serves the conspiratorial scheme targeted against the country's principal issues, foremost being the issue of liberation and resistance." The Bloc concludes its statement, saying: "With all objectiveness, resolve, and determination, we call for the cancellation of the government's recent decision concerning the ban of newscasts and political programs, and we will make every effort, and everyone is responsible, to wage the battle of media freedoms until the government reverses its decisions."

A 500-word interview is carried on page 9 with Dr. 'Ali al-Shaykh 'Ammar, deputy head of the Islamic Group Political Bureau. 'Ammar discusses the ministerial measures concerning the private radios and says: "These measures involve all of Lebanon and the Lebanese people and they will have impact on Lebanon's future and status and on the role being played by the resistance in confronting the Jewish plan in the region. These measures should not be allowed to preempt or circumvent the various effective and influential forces in Lebanon."

Fadlallah Denies U.S. Accusations Against Iran

LD2904191194 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 29 April 94

[Text] Beirut, April 29, IRNA—Lebanese prominent religious scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in his Friday prayer address today in south Lebanon attacked the hostile policy of the US towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. He termed the recent accusations levelled against Iran by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher as baseless and false.

"Yes, Iran supports freedom fighters and Muslims in Lebanon, Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and if those who struggle for freedom and for liberation of their lands are terrorist in the U.S. view, then Americans are also terrorits because they fought the British colonizers," Fadlallah argued. He said Iran does not support terrorism, but it has supported the liberation movements. Under the pretext that Iran has taken a negative stand towards the peace process, the U.S. has always called to ostracize and impose sanctions on Iran, but Iran's view is to create peace among the oppressed nations.

Ja'ja's Health Reportedly 'Very Good'

NC3004193894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] On instructions from the judicial judge investigating the assassination of engineer Dany Sham'un and his family, forensic doctor Subhi Germanus this afternoon examined Samir Ja'ja', commander of the dissolved Lebanese Forces, in his place of detention to determine his health. This was done in response to a request by his lawyer, As'ad Abu-Ra'd.

The checkup proved that his health is very good, that his condition is normal, and that his heart rate and blood pressure are normal. He is in good health. The forensic doctor will submit a report to judicial investigator Judge Hunayn to be added to the investigation file.

It should be recalled that the jail in al-Yarzah has the necessary health facilities and a doctor visits the prisoners daily to check their health.

'Arafat Opponent Injured in Combat Training

NC0105095494 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] A Palestinian source in the south has said that Munir Maqdah, former commander of the Fatah forces who is opposed to Yasir 'Arafat's policy, was hit by bullets and injured in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp yesterday while participating in combat training.

SLA Foils 29 Apr 'Terrorist' Attacks

NC3004074894 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] centers in Kafr Rumman and al-Nabi Tahir were subjected to an abortive terrorist attack at 2130 last night. The terrorists used machine guns and rockets and had the support of long-range artillery. But the two centers' personnel succeeded in resisting the attacks with the use of tanks and artillery. There were no casualties among the SLA troops. The terrorists' losses are not yet known.

Israeli Troops Fire Shells at Southern Areas

NC0205105994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The Habbush Bridge came under intermittent artillery fire by the Israeli occupation posts in al-Suwayda' at 0510 this morning. It received two 82-mm mortar shells and came under bursts of 12.7-mm machine-gun fire. At approximately 2200 last night, several flares and shells fell on the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, 'Ali al-Tahir, Mlita, and Jabal Safi, which overlook al-Nabatiyah and the neighboring villages, from the occupation troops posts inside the occupied border zone.

Al-Asad, Yemeni Leaders Discuss Situation by Phone

JN3004053994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Last night, President Hafiz al-Asad had telephone conversations with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Discussions dealt with developments in Yemen.

Minister on Christopher Visit, U.S. Role

NC3004090094 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman by Sana' al-Sa'id in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] It appears to many that the U.S. stands are inconsistent with peace and are inconsistent with what was agreed on at the Geneva summit between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad. Is Syria happy with the current U.S. stand?

[Salman] The peace process started following former President George Bush's March 1991 initiative, which regarded the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. As one of the two cosponsors of the peace conference that was held toward the end of that year and of the subsequent Washington talks, the United States played a major role in preparing for the Madrid conference through the clarifications and guarantees it gave and its promises to play the role of an honest partner in the peace process. The U.S. Administration remained committed to the Bush initiative when President Clinton came to power. It has made many statements that it will continue its efforts to achieve peace on all tracks, especially after the Washington talks were halted when Israel struck out on its own with the PLO and concluded the Oslo agreement with it, completely ignoring the bases on which the Madrid conference was held. The Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton reiterated the Madrid conference's terms of reference and the U.S. commitment to continue its efforts for a comprehensive peace on all the tracks of the conflict. Thus, Washington is still intent on its commitment to the peace process, though the role it is now expected to play fails to live up to its pledge to play the role of a full and honest partner in the peace process. We believe that, in light of its special relations with Israel—which have reached the level of a strategic alliance—the U.S. Administration is capable of influencing the Israeli stand, which is impeding the U.S. initiative entailing the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace.

[Al-Sa'id] In view of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, what is the United States specifically asked to do as a sponsor of the peace process and as an honest mediator?

[Salman] What is required is very clear, namely to fulfill its pledges and commitments to implement its initiative and effectively fulfill the role of a full and honest partner. This does not mean exerting pressure on Israel, as some circles are narrowly trying to interpret this issue, but rather to not leave international legitimacy's resolutions suspended in mid-air or subject to Israeli blackmail and bargaining. Israel uses these tactics in order to avoid the UN resolutions and replace them with new secret channels, on the Oslo model, so as to deal on its own with this or that Arab country and thereby conclude unilateral deals that thwart a just and comprehensive peace.

We hope that Christopher's visit will bring positive signs that the United States will act in conformity with its statements on activating the peace process and breaking the deadlock in the Washington talks, which was reached as a result of Israeli procrastination and intransigence.

[Al-Sa'id] The rounds of talks have so far proved that Israel is not serious about establishing peace and that it will continue its procrastination in order to keep the land as long as possible. How is it possible to eliminate the obstacles facing the peace process?

[Salman] This could be done if Israel acknowledges the inadmissibility of taking other people's land by force and accepts the land for peace principle. To do this, Israel must end its continuing occupation of the land and its rejection of Arab rights. Israel must also stop the its deceptive maneuvers on international level to disavow the requirements for peace.

The Arabs' steadfastness in the peace battle; the international community's awareness of the dangers inherent in the obstruction of the peace process; the unbiased and full partnership in the peace conference's sponsors, particularly the United States; and the new reality imposed by the intifadah on the Israeli occupiers that geographical factors cannot assure security—it goes without saying that these are all factors in forcing Israel to abandon its policy that is hostile to peace and the international legitimacy and for placing the comprehensive peace process on the right path.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel is convinced that the United States will not pressure it over talks with Syria due to Israel's internal situation and their coalition status. Can you comment?

[Salman] This issue concerns U.S.-Israeli relations and the U.S. desire to maintain the credibility of its commitment to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. We know well the strength of the U.S.-Israeli alliance. But this does not necessarily mean that the United States is unable to pursue a policy that serves its special interests or to entertain a peace plan that is not in line with Israel's, particularly since the United States is talking about a new world order based on the UN Charter and resolutions. We should note with guarded optimism how former President Eisenhower forced Israel to withdraw from Sinai following the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you expect a full or partial Israeli withdrawal from the Golan?

[Salman] The withdrawal from the Golan must be complete. We hope that Rabin's remarks on withdrawal from the Golan are free of any ambiguity, such as we have been confronting at every session of talks on the principle of complete withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel claims that Syria is hedging its bets. On the one hand, it keeps peace exchanges going with Israel, while on the other, it uses Hizballah as a bargaining chip. How do you see this?

[Salman] Our policy is not influenced by Israeli interpretations. The moment we endorsed the U.S. initiative we made it clear that peace is a strategic goal for Syria and the Arab world. To achieve this goal, we should employ our resources in the battle for peace. Therefore, we should adhere to our pan-Arab principles and support acts of legitimate resistance. The UN Charter endorses the right of nations to resist occupation.

[Al-Sa'id] The Gaza-Jericho agreement led to a halt in negotiations on other tracks and to a discontinuation of the peace process. What can you say about that?

[Salman] That agreement was an attempt to deprive the peace process of its foundation, namely, the two UN Security Council resolutions [242 and 338]. Yitzhaq Rabin admitted as much when he said: "The Oslo agreement proved the futility of the Washington talks." Rabin urged secret talks as a way of reaching separate agreements with other Arab parties to the peace process. By doing so, Israel hopes to renege on all commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions.

But Rabin failed to achieve this, despite Israel's intentional obstruction of the Washington talks, which stumbled as a result. The Geneva summit ended the premature elation that accompanied the signing of the Oslo agreement. That summit confirmed that a comprehensive solution must be found on all the negotiating tracks.

[Al-Sa'id] Arab world splits are a nightmare that weakens the Arab negotiating position vis-a-vis Israel.

[Salman] Since the corrective movement [al-Asad's rise to power] in 1970, Syria has endeavored to cement Arab solidarity. President Hafiz al-Asad has said that: "The strength of the Arabs is in their unity." President al-Asad warned us not to worrying about secondary issues and forget crucial Arab matters.

There are cracks in the Arab armor, but these can be sealed. We will do everything within our power to restore Arab solidarity. Those who fail to learn the lessons of the recent past have much to lose, and we are afraid the loss will be bigger this time.

As for those who remain firm and faithful in word and deed to the will of the nation, they discern through the clouds of discord the need for strict adherence to pan-Arab principles and further commitment to the interests of future generations.

Secretary Warren Christoper Arrives in Damascus

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN3004155394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] An official round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry at 1500 today between the Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the U.S. side, led by Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The talks were attended by Syria's Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

The talks focused on bilateral relations which were assessed in light of what had been agreed on at Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. Talks also dealt with some regional and international issues.

Christopher arrived in Damascus at 1430 this afternoon and was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Meets With President al-Asad

JN3004160394 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, 30 Apr (SANA)—At 1800 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for Middle East peace Process, and Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Asad Receives Delegation

JN0105172294 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Damascus, 1 May (SANA)—At 1845 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation. The delegation includes Dennis Ross, special Middle East peace process coordinator; Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus; and Martin Indyk, special assistant to the U.S. President.

The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington.

More on al-Asad, Delegation Talks

JN0205053294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation yesterday evening. The delegation includes Dennis Ross, special Middle East peace process coordinator; Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus; and Martin Indyk, special assistant to the U.S. president for Middle East affairs. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington.

Talks dealt with the peace process and all aspects of the ideas presented during Saturday's meeting. The president explained Syria's viewpoint, which stems from a real desire for a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the rights of all parties. He stressed that addressing the basic peace issues is what can guarantee the progress of this process.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation left Damascus last night following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the American ambassador in Damascus saw him off at Damascus International airport.

Speaking to reporters prior to his departure, Mr. Christopher described his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad as extremely serious and substantial. He said that, in his opinion, there is much to do and substantive talks to be held. A great deal of work and effort are awaiting us in the future, he said.

Mr. Christopher said he relayed some ideas to Damascus and took others from it. He told reporters he was going to Israel to meet with Yitzhaq Rabin and then on to Cairo. He said that at present he has no plans to return to Damascus and added that his country will play a more effective role to help the parties. He said he discussed the subject of bilateral relations with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and that he will resume talks with him if Mr. al-Shar' visits Washington.

Replying to a reporter's question, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Syria does not accept phased peace with Israel and insists on complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as a condition for the establishment of peace in the region. He added that there has been no change whatsoever in the Syrian position on the peace process. Al-Shar' said President Hafiz al-Asad asked several substantive questions which the Israeli side has to answer. Asked about the idea of Majdal Shams first, the foreign minister said Syria's position is that the Golan should be restored in full.

Iran

Visit of U.S. Secretary of State to Damascus Analyzed

NC0105080494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 1 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus last night and presented the Zionist regime's so-called peace plan to him.

In this plan, Tel Aviv has proposed to Damascus that the Golan Heights be returned to Syria over a period of 10 years and in this interim period, U.S. or peacekeeping forces be stationed in this region.

According to political analysts, this proposal indicates that the Zionist regime is trying to postpone its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to as far in the future as possible, by presenting miscellaneous proposals. Earlier as well, the Zionist regime had suggested to Syria that it carry out a military withdrawal on the condition that Syria would lease the region to Israel for 10 years.

Such proposals by the Zionist regime to Syria highlight the following realities: First, this regime, and its main supporter, the United States, do not consider it necessary to act within the framework of the Madrid talks. In other words, the so-called Middle East peace talks that began in Madrid on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 clearly stipulate that the Zionist regime should return the territories usurped by it in 1967 to the Arabs. However, in the latest proposals by the Zionist regime which have been conveyed by the United States to the Syrian leaders, withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights has been enmeshed in various conditions, some of which even violate Syrian sovereignty.

The second issue that can be deduced from the Zionist regime's proposals to Syria is: With its various ploys, the Zionist regime is seeking to defer withdrawal from the Golan Heights and other occupied territories to a time as far in the future as possible. This attitude indicates that the Zionist regime is not very optimistic about its future in the region. Tel Aviv is well aware that as a result of the proliferation of the wave of Islamism, public opinion in the region has not even accepted the despotic Zionist regime's existence, much less amicable coexistence with it.

The actions by the United States and the Zionist regime to cast aside the Madrid framework and Tel Aviv's tendency to present such invalid plans for withdrawal from the Golan Heights and autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip exposes the reality that the Zionist regime and its international supporters are striving to attain peace with the Arabs without returning the occupied territories to them, but at the same time, to forge friendly relations and cooperation in the political, economic, and security fields.

This reality illustrates the outcome of the so-called peace talks, that is, the Zionist regime will get what it set out to get from these peace talks, while the Arab countries will be forced to make peace with the enemy without regaining their usurped territories.

U.S. 'Ploys' Exaggerate Tehran's Military Goals

LD2904170794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1415 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The fifth of Ordibehesht [25 April] this week was the 14th anniversary of the U.S. abortive military attack on Tabas. A glance at events during this relatively lengthy period demonstrates that Washington has never abandoned attempts to attack Islamic Iran by various means. But just as in its attack on the Tabas desert all its attempts have somehow failed.

The continuous confrontation between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the United States since the victory of the Islamic revolution has been one of the most complex confrontations of the recent decades, which have engaged two international political entities. Ploys and parameters exploited by Washington in this confrontation are very diverse and extensive. In the field of politics, the White House takes advantage of its influence in such international forums as the United Nations and Amnesty International. It does not miss an opportunity either to persuade or force member countries of such regional bodies as the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League to pressure and isolate Iran. [passage omitted]

At present Washington is carefully monitoring every military purchase by Tehran. By exaggerating the Islamic Republic's military objectives and by repeating allegations that Iran is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, it is pursuing some sort of covert embargo. Also in the confrontation against the Islamic revolution, the White House is extensively exploiting the lever of economic pressure. American officials exploit their relations with major European or Asian states to carefully monitor any expansion of economic ties between Iran and these states. To check the IRI's economic capabilities, the American officials on occasion have been prepared to pay a high price. These sorts of reactions by such a country as America seems odd and incredible, unless one tries to analyze these stances by understanding the depth of imperialism's grudge against Islam.

In the face of the diverse and extensive ploys designed by the U.S. strategists to confront the Islamic revolution, the IRI leadership, while being vigilantly aware of the complexity of an all-embracing struggle, is relying on two basic axes: First on Islam as a comprehensive and effective system to realize the revolution's short-term or long-term goals; and second on maintaining the people's presence to strengthen legitimacy of the regime. On the surface these two factors seem so simple, but they provide so much strength and have the potential to divert the continuous Washington-Tehran confrontation to favor the Islamic revolution in practice.

Irish Prime Minister Denies IRA-Iran Links

LD0105171194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, has denied any links with the Islamic Republic of Iran. A Sinn Fein spokesman said that the British allegations are some vague propaganda without any basis and foundations.

Moreover, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said that he was unaware of any links between the IRA and Iran. He said that so far he has not seen any firm evidences and reasons to prove the British claim.

The London daily TIMES wrote that the British accusation against Iran is a biased political move, which have been carried out with America's coordination.

Papers Criticize UK Allegations of IRA Links

LD3004092994 Tehran IRNA in English 0627 GMT 30 Apr 94

Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Two morning dailies Saturday severely criticized the British Government for accusing Iran of having established contacts with the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' argued whether Britain or any other Western country had the right to question Iran's actions regarding adherence to internationally accepted conventions.

"From the Iranian point of view, Western countries have repeatedly ignored the spirit of international conventions which regulate relations between individual countries," said the paper.

The editorial said the 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions requiring the observance of mutual diplomatic rules among nations have been openly ignored by the West through their overt and covert support for Iranian terrorist groups residing in their countries.

"Western powers, Britain among them, cannot plead ignorance when it comes to the terrorist nature of anti-Iranian groups they harbor in the West."

The paper noted that the Iranian Government has been under increasing domestic public opinion pressure for not allowing Bader-Meinhof, Direct Action or the IRA to have offices in Tehran while anti-Iranian terrorist groups enjoy almost full diplomatic rights in Bonn, Paris and London.

"The Iranian public opinion is consistently questioning the government why it adheres to international conventions regarding aiding and abetting terrorists when Western countries so openly and flagrantly ignore the same conventions."

The daily termed the latest baseless British protest over the Iran-IRA contact as a "smoke-screen to hide the fact that Western based anti-Iranian terrorists are providing material and personnel to the Iraqi-based terrorists to attack targets inside the Islamic republic."

Commenting on the same subject the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that apparently Tehran-London ties would never be stable because evidence shows that the Britons have constantly tried to mar mutual ties by taking advantage of the status quo.

It added that a review of Tehran-London political ties over the past 15 years reveals that not only such relations could never be relied on, the London government would occasionally misuse the ties under various pretexts.

The paper called on the Iranian authorities to bring the ties with London to the lowest possible level, especially in economic field.

It also recommended the decision-making bodies in the country to look into the new British game and not allow London to take advantage of such a political-propaganda ploy.

IRNA Calls British Allegations 'Smear Campaign'

LD2904143494 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] London, Apr. 29, IRNA—The British Government appeared intent Friday in continuing its fresh smear campaign against Iran with the prime minister's office saying it will "maintain vigilance" despite Tehran's rejection of IRA links as trumped up.

The Foreign Office also insisted that it was looking for a rapid reponse from the Iranian charge d'affaires to London, Gholam Reza Ansari, even though he has already "categorically denied" the allegations.

The charge d'affaires said that claims of Iranian contacts with the IRA in its campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland were "totally unsubtantiated" and suspected "elements" were at work to undermine diplomatic relations.

Ireland's prime minister, Albert Reynolds, is also sceptical about the claim. He said Thursday [28 April] he was unaware of any such link and "cannot accept any part of the allegations until they are established."

The FINANCIAL TIMES in London suspected that the allegations were connected to the U.S. campaign to isolate Iran economically following the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks with the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, this week.

The charges, which have been accompanied by maximum publicity in the British press, are seen aimed at trying to embarrass European countries, who have recently worked to reschedule Iran's debt repayments.

The prime minister's office said Friday that it had informed European Union countries, the U.S., Canada and Japan of the fresh allegations and that their response was "supportive."

The timing follows several European countries building up better relations with Iran, including Ireland, whose marine minister, David Andrews has just returned from Tehran. The FINANCIAL TIMES also saw the move putting pressure on Japan's friendly ties.

A spokesman for the UK Foreign Office remained adamant Friday the government was still looking for a "very early response" from Iran to "immediately and conclusively sever" ties with the IRA. But he was unable to explain how this could be done when Iran had already totally rejected the claim.

The suggestion was there was never any reply likely to satisfy London's intentions of provoking a new diplomatic row, with the media here implying that it could lead to sanctions or expulsions, that have been so common in Britain's diplomatic policy.

The UK's hostility towards Iran has lingered since the Islamic revolution in 1979 causing London to lose out heavily in trade relations that have been filled by its European rivals, which unlike the UK, have been more pragmatic in improving ties with the Islamic republic.

Rowhani: Britain Becoming 'Tool' of U.S., Israel

LD3004221994 Tehran IRNA in English 2155 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani, expressed wonder on the naivety of such a past master as the British Government and believed that London's becoming a tool in the hands of Washington and Israel intelligence services would not be beneficial for it.

Talking to IRNA, Rowhani who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), expressed surprise that the British Government raised so undocumented and hollow claims, at a time that European countries are adopting positive views on their relations with Iran.

He was referring to the recent British allegations that Iran is backing the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Rowhani remarked that over the past 15 years Britain had kept a close connection with the armed terrorists fighting Iran and that its officials and media had repeatedly ignored the diplomatic norms by supporting the anti-revolutionaries both overtly and covertly.

"By backing terrorist groups they have violated international laws," said Rowhani.

He regretted that the British media had become an instrument for political games because its political figures realize better than all the hollowness of such claims.

"Iran, as a victim of terrorism, had always called on the Western countries especially the European Union to conduct coordinated and joint measures against armed terrorism but received no answer from them," he added.

Noting that Iran knew well what goals Britain pursued by such claims, the SCNS secretary invited Britain to bring its claims before the free world's public opinion, if it had any reliable documents, rather than creating tension between the two nations.

He said London's hollow claim is actually designed to cover up the failure of its police in confronting the IRA, as well as the public hatred that the British Government's support for the Serbs in the Balkans has aroused.

Referring to the presence of the American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, in the Middle East, the Majles vice-speaker, said that the coordinated propaganda of the U.S., Israel and Britain against Iran, revealed a plot by this evil trio against the Islamic republic for its support for Palestian and Bosnian Muslims.

He was pleased to note that after 15 years Britain had come to realize that backing terrorist grouplets was wrong.

Rowhani concluded by repeating Iran's readiness for joint measures with the European countries and the European Union in particular against terrorism.

Western Media Said 'Biased' Against Muslims

LD2904203094 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—When an explosion rocked a Maronite church in Beirut on February 27 just after the al-Khalil [Hebron] massacre the Western media immediately blamed Islamic groups. But the recent arrest of former Lebanese Christian warlord Samir Ja'ja' in connection with the church blast that killed 11 people dispels the suspicions against Islamic groups and brings the culprits to light. It is certain that the Zionists instigated the church blast to distract world condemnation of the massacre of 60 Palestinians in the Ibrahimi Mosque in occupied al-Khalil during Ramadan.

The leader of the Phalangist party, George Sa'adah, said on March 24 that the Christians had to be ashamed of committing such a crime against the church. It is, however, quite strange that the Western media did not make much noise about the perpetrators of this henious crime and did not compete with one another to call them terrorists, as it always does with Muslims, even if they are not convicted and their responsibility for such incidents not proved.

When the Zionists announced that the massacre was the act of a "mad person," the Western media repeated the version like a parrot as a confirmed fact, even before a judicial enquiry was conducted.

The Zionists announced the same justification when the al-'Aqsa Mosque was set on fire in 1967. They claimed that the perpetrator, a Canadian Jew, was "mentally deranged," just as they did in the case of the American-born Goldstein, the murderer of al-Khalil.

As a general rule the Western media forgets its reasoning power and neutrality when Zionists make any claims, no matter how illogical they may be. It tries to promote the false image of the Zionist state as the "only democratic state in the Middle East," ignoring the fact that it is a state built on terrorism and brutal force. Shabra and Shatila, Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, al-Khalil are just a few names in the long list of terrorist activities perpetrated by the Zionist state.

The Beirut church incident is one more example for Muslims that the Western media is neither fair nor neutral. It is biased against Islam and working hand-in-glove with the interests of the Western world.

Velayati Returns From UN Meeting on Bosnia

LD2904130494 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up his two-day visit to New York and arrived in Tehran Thursday night.

Velayati who arrived in New York Tuesday participated in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina and outlined Iran's stands on the issue in the meeting of the representatives of OIC member states in the United Nations.

During the meeting, he pointed out the need to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina and the readiness of the Islamic states to take part in the United Nations peace-keeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also stressed on the necessity of the presence of OIC representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina peace talks as well as the formation of an air fleet by Muslim countries to provide humanitarian aids to Bosnians.

The foreign minister further elaborated on Iran's views Wednesday in the open session of the Security Council. The session was held at the request of Islamic countries to discuss lifting of the United Nations arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Together with foreign ministers of OIC contact group, Velayati met with the secretary general of the United Nations, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Thursday and reviewed the proposals and stands on the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue.

UNSC To Send Islamic Troops to Bosnia

NC3004092894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Our foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, returned to Tehran from New York last night and described the special session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] contact group with the United Nations Security Council as unprecedented. The session was proposed by Iran and held at UN Headquarters with the efforts of the members of the contact group.

Dr. Velayati said: The extensive protest by Islamic countries about the Security Council's performance regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina resulted in the Security Council agreeing to send a 7,000-strong unit, that will include troops from Islamic countries such as Malaysia and Pakistan. According to the Central News Unit, Dr. Velayati commented on the demand by Islamic countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. He added: The ICO member countries are to draft a resolution on this issue and submit it to the Security Council. In the event of a veto by one of the Security Council members, the issue of lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina will be proposed to the UN General Assembly.

Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Continues Visit

Meets With Habibi

LD3004182294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] In a joint session attended by Mr. Habibi, the first vice president; the Croatian prime minister [Nikica Valentic], and the Bosnian deputy prime minister [Edib Bukvic], regional issues, problems between the two countries [Bosnia and Croatia], and long-term mutual economic co-operation were discussed.

Also, in a meeting with Mr. Habibi, the Croatian prime minister condemned the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, stressed the sovereignty and independence of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and conveyed his country's willingness to engage in trilateral cooperation in various fields between Iran, Bosnia, and Croatia. Mr. Habibi, for his part, said the differences between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina assisted the Serbs in carrying out further attacks in Bosnia and added: the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the fact that the problems between the two countries are being resolved.

Mr. Habibi also held a meeting with the Bosnian deputy prime minister today and said: It is the right of the

Muslim people of Bosnia to determine the destiny of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the struggles being carried out by these people against aggressors illustrates their determination to defend their identity and their country. The Bosnian deputy prime minister, for his part, described Iran as his second homeland and expressed gratitude for the support and assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Offers Support

LD0105112194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpts] Edib Bukvic, deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation, was received today by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to a report by our correspondent, during the meeting the Bosnian deputy prime minister described the struggle of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina against the Serbian aggressors as a struggle for safeguarding the Islamic aspirations of the whole world. Thanking the humanitarian support by the Iranian Government and people for the tyrannized people of Bosnia, he said: Iran is among the greatest friends and supporters of the people of Bosnia which, side by side, through its political and diplomatic efforts, continues that support in a practical way through humanitarian assistance.

The Bosnian deputy prime minister added: At the moment our nation pays the price for adhering to religious principles and its love of freedom. Speaking about the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said: The Serbian aggressors are preparing themselves for another attack against the free areas in Bosnia so that by occupying more land in that area push our people to areas where there are no facilities for living. Continuing, the Bosnian deputy prime minister pointed out: Through reliance on God and through the efforts of the military forces, our honorable people, and the all- round political support by freedom loving states in the world we will thwart the enemies in achieving their ominous objectives.

According to the report, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, praising the brave defense of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the face of the aggressors, said: The patience, endurance, jihad, and the oppression of Bosnian Muslims will be registered in the history of that country as an honorable example and juncture. [passage omitted comparing the current situation in Bosnia with others in history]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stressed the need for increasing international efforts by Islamic states in order to prevent the annihilation of the Bosnian nation.

Meets With Majles Speaker

LD0105122894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpts] In a meeting with Edib Bukovic, the deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri announced: The Iranian youth are ready to go to the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina if the United Nations allows them to do so. [passage omitted]

The Majles speaker stressed the need to solve the existing problems between Muslim leaders of Bosnia and Croatia and said that aggressor Serbs are the principal enemy. He further called for the removal of differences between Sarajevo and Zagreb.

The Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Edib Bukovic thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance and said Muslims' resistance against the Serbs will result in the growth of Islam.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0205064094 Tehran IRNA in English 0607 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The Bosnian Deputy Premier Edib Bukvic wrapped up his three-day official visit here Monday morning and was seen off by Vice-President for Legal Affairs 'Atta'ollah Mohajerani.

Lauding the readiness of Iranian people for helping the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bukvic described his talks with Iranian officials as positive.

In his visit he signed three memoranda of understanding in political, scientific, cultural and technical areas.

Tehran on 'Symbolic' Cooperation With Bosnia

NC0205080294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 1 May 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, Edib Bukvic, the deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, left Tehran this morning and was seen off by the vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning.

In the past three days, the Bosnian deputy prime minister held talks with high-level political and cultural officials of our country. In addition to issues pertaining to bilateral relations, the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the future of the country were also discussed and assessed.

The visit by the Bosnian deputy prime minister to Tehran almost coincided with the last few days of the

Croatian minister's visit to Tehran. This provided a suitable opportunity for a positive diplomatic effort in Tehran for bringing the stances of the two countries closer. This is extremely important in assisting the Bosnian Muslim nation in its current difficult situation. In the course of these talks, the establishment of a Bosnian-Croatian confederation, which was proposed a few months ago and was approved by the Bosnian parliament, was also discussed. This plan appears to be welcomed by the two sides involved.

While in Tehran the deputy prime minister signed three memoranda of understanding for cooperation in the political, technical, scientific, and cultural fields with Iranian officials. Of course, in the current difficult conditions, these memoranda are more symbolic [preceding word in English] and indicate the wishes of two Muslim countries for cooperation in all fields. The Iranian nation, more than all the friends of the Bosnian nation, has displayed the greatest support and sympathy for the oppressed people of that country and special relations will be forged with Bosnia-Herzegovina in the future as well.

However, in the current circumstances it is significant that the Iranian Government and people will muster all their efforts to ease the hardships of the Bosnian Muslim people and to help them extricate themselves from the present crisis. While doing this they will certainly encounter the animosity and plots of the common enemies of the Muslims.

Commentary Reviews Bosnian Minister's Visit

NC3004103494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] Edib Bukvic, the deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, arrived in Tehran yesterday for talks with Iranian officials on broadening bilateral relations. The Bosnian deputy prime minister, who is accompanied by a delegation of government officials, met with our vice president. In addition to issues pertaining to bilateral relations, the Bosnian delegation expressed its hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the efforts of the Bosnian Government and people to put an end to the inhuman atrocities being perpetrated by the Serbs and to find a humane and just solution to the Bosnian crisis would continue.

Upon his arrival in Tehran, Bukvic described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Bosnian people's best friend, which is an indication of the deep relations between the two countries based on a longstanding and common Islamic culture which transcends all boundaries. In fact, despite the atrocities committed against the Bosnian Muslims and the propagandistic clamor in the mass media of various countries, the Bosnian Muslim nation has few friends. Even among those, there are not many who are ready to extend active support for the territorial integrity, independence, and survival of the oppressed Bosnian nation. The friendship of the Iranian nation with the Muslim Bosnian people, which is rooted in ideological bonds, is an example.

During the past two years of an unjust and unequal war against the Bosnian Muslims, the Islamic Republic of Iran has actively extended serious support to the Bosnian people. Unstintingly and in the most difficult circumstances, it has risen in their support. The Islamic Republic of Iran has had to endure political pressures and restrictions and negative propaganda by the common enemies of the Iranian and Bosnian people because of this.

The Muslim Iranian nation has always declared its readiness to actively participate in the jihad of the Bosnian Muslims against the criminal Serbs. Recently, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated its willingness to dispatch military assistance in order to prevent the Serbs from continuing their crimes and aggression. In any case, the relations between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina, based on ideological Islamic tenets, will continue to broaden in the future.

Bosnian Ambassador Updates Situation

NC3004110094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 94 pp 2, 11

[Interview with Omar Behman, ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina, by staff correspondent Karimlu in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Q. What is the present situation in Gorazde?

A. It is tragic. The aggressors are committing crimes using their full military strength. Fortunately the Muslims and the Bosnian forces are defending the city. But if no step is taken Gorazde will certainly fall and the lives of 65,000 to 70,000 inhabitants of the city will be at stake. We should not forget that Gorazde is only one example of the Serb crimes and aggression. There are other places in Bosnia which are currently under the boots of the Serbs. A fresh force of 10,000 has just been dispatched to areas around Gorazde from Serbia. Some other Serbian troops who have evacuated areas near Sarajevo, have come to Gorazde. And despite all the crimes they are committing, the Serbs are constantly receiving oil and food in violation of the UN economic sanctions. This is under conditions that the UN forces would not allow Muslims to receive even a single bullet. The main responsibility of the UN is to defend Bosnia but the organization has failed even to stop the aggressor Serbs to the extent that we can claim the UN itself is an accomplice in this aggression and is helping the Serbs to violate the rights of the Bosnian people.

Q. What is your opinion about NATO?

A. At the outset it seemed that they wanted to help, but later it became clear that they have no intention to defend the wronged party. NATO is not an independent force, it carries out the instructions it receives from the UN and its Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Q. What is the current situation in Sarajevo? What about the people's demonstration in the city?

A. It is getting worse and worse every day. The enemy is sniping at the city and in some cases they even launch artillery attacks. The UN forces have returned the heavy arms and artilleries collected from the Serbs earlier.

Concerning the demonstration, the people suddenly poured into the streets and voiced their hatred of international organizations and called for assistance. The Serbs are being allowed to commit more and more crimes and this has made the situation very critical.

Q. Would you comment on the use of chemical weapons by the Serbs?

A. The aggressors used chemical weapons in their first attacks on the bunkers of the Bosnian forces outside the city (Gorazde) and thus succeeded in breaking the defense line of the city. I am not sure about the precise number of the martyrs and wounded of the chemical attacks. Military sources have put the number of the casualties after the Serbs broke into the city, at 400 killed and 1000 wounded. But the point is that the populated villages near Gorazde are also under the control of the Serbs and it is not known how many people have been killed and wounded there. In view of the fact that there is no link between Gorazde and outside, it is very difficult to have an exact number of casualties at this time.

Q. What do you think about the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina?

A. It is very hard to say. As we know the war is going on. Our enemies are determined to exterminate the Muslims in this region and it is very difficult to counter them with empty hands.

Q. Following the letter sent to Butrus-Ghali by Mr. Izetbegovic, is there any hope that the UN would help?

A. The UN and the Security Council exist only in appearance but the decisions are made behind the curtain and by the superpowers. The UN has in fact no role in the decision-making process. Furthermore, Mr. Butrus-Ghali has proved that he has no determination of his own and has failed even to fulfill the simplest obligations of his organization. He is only waiting for the big powers to instruct him what to do, acting like, a slave. But we remember that the previous chief of the UN stood against Russia and the U.S. several times and carried out what it wished to do.

Q. What are your expectations from the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]?

A. The IRI, its government and people have been on our side from the beginning of the war and helped us as far as they could. We think them all and we are confident that they will continue to be with us in the future.

Editorial Warns Russia of West's Motives

NC3004114294 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Russia Will Pay the Price for Western Duplicity in Bosnia"]

[Text] Despite NATO's latest stern warning to the Serbs to cease firing on Gorazde and pull back from the town, the military alliance still does not want to use its forces to stop Serbian aggression against Bosnia. One of the main reasons is purely economical. In plain language, 'there is nothing in it for NATO members.'

After NATO, led by U.S. forces, attacked the Iraqis and expelled them from Kuwait, U.S.-based multinational corporations got the lion's share of the lucrative contracts awarded by Kuwait for rebuilding that country. Other Western countries, depending on the pecking order, also claimed their share of the spoils of that war.

Crude oil has existed under the Kuwaiti desert for thousands of years. Luckily, this precious commodity does not spoil even if left underground for many more centuries. When U.S.-led forces liberated Kuwait, the country was devastated but its wealth was almost intact prompting Western polit co-military investment in its liberation.

Bosnia-Herzegovina has also been totally devastated, but in contrast to Kuwait, it has no natural resources to speak of, ergo the Western delaying tactics in evicting the aggressors from this beleaguered and newly independent country. The West, following one of the basic tenets of Capitalism and applying its usual double standards, considers the cost of its involvement in the Bosnian-Serb crisis to be too high and its financial rewards too little to make it worthwhile. However, in order to keep up appearances in world forums, the West has to find a way of wiggling out this mess without accepting any blame. This is where the Russian factor comes into play.

The United States introduced the Russian trump card exactly at the juncture when the world public opinion demanded UN-NATO action to end Serbian aggression against Bosnia. All of a sudden Russia had to be brought into the NATO decision-making process. The United States and its allies insist that there can be no peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina unless the Russians are allowed to participate in NATO's plans to end the Serbo-Bosnian war. This logic indicates that the West considers Russia, despite its diminished stature, to be an important military power deserving of being included in the resolution of global conflicts. However, when the U.S.-led UN forces attacked the Iraqi army, the opposition of the all powerful Soviet Union was totally ignored by the U.S. and its allies.

Russia, for its own domestic reasons, needs to pretend that it is still the same menacing 'bear' it used to be before it disintegrated. But the successors to the Communist Empire must realize that by promoting the Serbian 'cause' they are playing right into the hands of the Western political puppeteers who plan to sit this war out and blame their inaction on Russia's opposition to the use of force against the Serbs.

Russia must realize that if it allows itself to be used as an excuse for Western duplicity in Bosnia, it will do irreparable damage to its already fragile relations with Muslim countries and their more than one billion collective population.

Developing Countries' Impotence in Bosnia Lamented

NC3004124694 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The New World Disorder"]

[Text] What have been happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina since its independence a couple of years ago is a clear picture depicting the so-called new world order. A defenseless and innocent nation is being butchered by the brutal and armed-to-the-teeth Serbs, while the international organizations and the so-called free world are watching and sucking their thumbs!

There are big lessons in this for other developing countries of the world, specially those which want to preserve and safeguard their cultural and religious integrity against imposed foreign cultural values. They should be ready since after Gorazde and after the fall of other so-called safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina it might be their turn. Of course, gradually and one by one, they will become the victims of the new world order or better yet disorder.

With situation the way it is, at the turn of the century the world is moving towards a chaotic era in its history. The United Nations, which at least as a matter of face-saving, used to defend the victims of aggression, has turned into an instrument in the hands of Western countries to preserve their interest when and where necessary.

A look at the recent conflicts in the world, like what happened in Somalia or the ongoing Bosnian crisis, would reveal that the world is moving towards a new world disorder instead of order. Under such circumstances, a weak nation will be a victim of aggression, either directly by the powerful countries or indirectly through these powerful countries' allies. Two clear examples of this fact is Washington's direct intervention in Somalia and Russian backed Serbian aggression against the innocent people of Bosnia.

Former colonial powers are dreaming about their "golden ages" of 17th, 18th and 19th centuries when they had colonies all over the globe. Gorazde is a visible example of colonization of an independent and free country by another nation. While the Western powers are united, unfortunately, the developing countries and in particular the Islamic nations, despite their economic potentials and vast natural resources, are so divided that, for instance, they are unable to use their natural resources as a weapon to exert pressure on Serbia to halt its aggression.

Commentary Views Mediation in Bosnia, Croatia

LD3004121594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Croatian Prime Minister Nikica Valentic arrived in our country after the arrival in Tehran of the Bosnian deputy prime minister. In an interview with correspondents upon arrival, he said: If a confederation plan for Bosnia and Croatia fails to succeed, the international community will pay a heavy price. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which recently has hosted prominent Bosnian and Croatian authorities, not only gives prominence to mutual economic, communications, and political ties with Bosnia and Croatia, but also endeavors to play the role of a mediator to bond the two countries of Bosnia and Croatia and, through bringing their stances closer together, to pave the way for the creation of stable and peaceful relations in the Balkans. [passage omitted]

The role played by Iran, as the closest ally and a supporter of the oppressed Bosnian nation, in resolving the Balkan crisis through efforts aimed at establishing a confederation of Bosnia and Croatia—a plan that was approved by the Bosnian parliament three months ago—has gained further prominence and is indicative of the realization of Iran's spiritual and diplomatic influence by its guests from the Balkans. That is why the Croatian prime minister has called on Iran to stop the recurrence of clashes, which stem from misunderstanding between the Croats and the Muslims, and to support the confederation plan.

Apart from the Bosnian issues, the Croatian prime minister will also hold talks with our country's officials on relations between Tehran and Zagreb. Those ties will include trade exchanges and economic and communications cooperation. Significant outcome is expected from the talks in that respect.

Reportage, Commentary on Vietnamese President's Visit

Arrives for 3-Day Visit

LD3004135694 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—President Le Duc Anh of Vietnam arrived here Saturday on a three day official visit and was greeted at Tehran Airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In remarks upon his arrival, the Vietnamese president said that his visit to Iran was aimed at expanding and deepening mutual relations in political, economic and technical areas. He termed his visit to Tehran a "turning point" in the history of Tehran-Hanoi relations. The ministers of foreign affairs, commerce and agriculture are accompanying the Vietnamese president.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told reporters that Tehran and Hanoi share close views on international political issues. The Iranian president said that during the Vietnamese president's visit to Tehran, efforts will be made to expand scientific, technical and commercial cooperation between the two countries. He said to the Iranian people Vietnam is an attractive country because of its glorious independence struggles in the past.

The similar experiences of both countries would be effective in deepening and expanding Tehran-Hanoi cooperation, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

Views Bilateral Cooperation

NC0105082094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian GMT 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During these ceremonies, Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the Iranian president, Government, and people to him and his accompanying delegation. He said: Iran is recognized as a cradle of one of the most ancient human civilizations. My visit to Iran and talks with Your Excellency can be considered a turning point in the history of cooperation between the two countries and a source of strengthening the friendship, peace, stability, and security in the region.

The Vietnamese president added: The grand victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran generated deep changes and upheavals. The Vietnamese Government and nation are proud to be the first to accord recognition to the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately after the victory of the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

He elaborated: Today, we see that Iran has an independent economy and a prudent policy and is engaged in safeguarding the gains of the Islamic Revolution, under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and Your Excellency's management. We are extremely pleased and hopeful when we see the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which increases daily.

The Vietnamese president added: The Vietnamese nation has consistently enjoyed the support of Iran in the course of its struggle as well as its period of reconstruction and we hope that the cooperation between the two countries will continue to expand.

Le Duc Anh stressed: We attach great importance to cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and are willing to boost this cooperation with Iran within the framework of South-South cooperation and reciprocal interests.

Meets With Velayati

LD0105134994 Tehran IRNA in English 1326 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Visiting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday exchanged views on important issues of mutual interest.

Issues concerning politics, bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, cultural and technological areas were among topics discussed by the two foreign ministers.

Velayati expressed satisfaction with the trends of constructive cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the problem of the occupied Palestine and Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Velayati emphasized that the two nations should attain their legitimate rights. He lambasted the UK's policy of supporting the Serbs who are massacring the defenceless people of Bosnia.

Manh Cam said Iran has valuable experience and expertise in the field of oil technology which Vietnam is keen to share.

He said that regular exchange of views between Foreign Ministries of the two countries would bring closer the views of the two sides on different political issues and would pave the way for cooperation in international forums.

The two foreign ministers stressed the need for setting up of Tehran-Hanoi joint economic commission to form a regular basis for cooperation in various areas including joint investment.

Manh is part of a delegation led to Iran by Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh.

Confers With Agricultural Minister

LD0105161194 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Vietnamese Agriculture Minister Nguyen Cong Tan here Sunday met with his Iranian counterpart 'Isa Kalantari.

Nguyen Cong Tan termed as an important step the formation of a Tehran-Hanoi joint economic commission and said it would lead to further expansion of bilateral relations.

He expressed hope that agreements reached between Iranian and Vietnamese officials on issues of mutual interest would lead to "constructive" cooperation.

Kalantari also expressed hope that bilateral cooperation would further expand in the fields of politics, culture, commerce, engineering, scientific research, oil exploration and joint investment in various areas concerning development.

Discusses Ties With Khamene'i

LD0205101594 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i received the visiting Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh here Monday and praised the bravery and resistence of the Vietnamese people in defending their dignity during the war.

The leader described as "highly positive" the perception of the Iranians of Vietnamese people and pointed to their resistance against the aggressor as a common point between the two nations and a suitable ground for the expansion of future relations.

The Vietnamese president in response called as very "fruitful" his talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and lauded the Iranians' resistance during the eight-year imposed war on Iran.

Anh also stressed that Hanoi was interested in cementing cordial relations with Tehran and expanding bilateral cooperation in political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields.

President Rafsanjani and a number of high-ranking officials were also present in the meeting. The Vietnamese president arrived here last Saturday on a three-day official visit.

In another development, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Vietnamese president discussed expansion of relations in all fields, upgrading of Tehran-Hanoi cooperation at international forums and other issues of mutual interest in a meeting here Sunday.

During the meeting Anh reiterated promotion of Tehran-Hanoi ties in all fields and said that formation of the joint commission had played a significant role in further cementing bilateral cooperation.

He also stressed the need for further contacts between the two countries as a means to pave the way for future agreements.

Referring to the first session of Iran-Vietnam joint commission which was recently held in Tehran, Velayati said it indicated that the two countries have gained major achievements in bilateral relations.

Pointing to regional issues including the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Velayati said that Tehran-Hanoi cooperation in the organization was a good example of south-south relations.

At the end of the meeting Anh underlined the need for Tehran-Hanoi further cooperation in NAM, cementing of ties between South-South countries and further rapprochement of the South-North states.

Commentary Notes Significance of Visit

NC0105112094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 1 May 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh arrived in Tehran yesterday at the head of a high-level delegation and was received by our country's officials. In the course of this visit, the first by a Vietnamese president to Tehran, bilateral relations, regional and international issues are to be discussed.

Vietnam is one of the southeastern countries and it has a population of 70 million and rich, abundant resources. This country has endured two major crises; that is, a war with the United States and its 19-year-long embargo, as well as intense differences with the PRC on Cambodia. Hanoi has now entered a new phase of reconstruction since the Cold War has ended and the nature of its international relations has metamorphosed from military to economic one.

Vietnam's basic strategy is to strengthen its reconstruction process by favoring regional cooperation. That is why the Hanoi government's declared program is to base its foreign policy on broadening and expanding international relations. Regional and neighboring countries are given special preference in this regard.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has certain similar characteristics, as Iran inherited a prolonged period of backwardness, which is a remnant of the previous regime. The Iranian nation also initiated extensive struggles against U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs and continues to do so. Similarly, Iran fought an eight-year-long war with an aggressor, Iraq, which resulted in immense loss of life and property for Iran.

Now that Iran has put these crises behind it, effective steps have been taken for the country's reconstruction and the basic strategy is to carry out this reconstruction successfully with the assistance and cooperation of friendly countries. Thus, tasting the bitterness of foreign intervention, enduring an unjust war, being in the orbit of the developing countries of the south, embarking on basic reconstruction, and favoring regional closeness, are the common denominators which motivate these two countries to adopt a joint strategy.

Most important of all, Iran and Vietnam are at that juncture of their development when their cooperation can address most of their respective needs. Vietnam has a developing economy and in the opinion of political and economic analysts, this country needs a foreign investment of $12 to $15 billion to boost its economic and industrial structure in order to reach an eight-percent level of growth by the year 2000.

Iran can have effective cooperation with Vietnam in the field of investment, and in particular, in gas and oil. In addition, in view of its proximity to the Central Asian countries, Iran can play an important role in the transit of Vietnamese products to those republics. Reciprocally, Vietnam can prove of benefit to Iran by the transfer of its technological experience in various fields, especially in agriculture and industry.

However, it appears that despite the actual and potential capability of the two countries and the broadening of their political relations, the volume of their exchanges is not very satisfactory. Therefore, Iran and Vietnam should expand their joint economic commissions and sign trade accords especially on a quid pro quo basis, and thus take effective steps to improve their relations.

Paper Calls For Resolution of Differences With Iraq

LD3004100594 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—An English daily here Saturday commented on the desire that both Iran and Iraq have expressed in recent years to improve mutual ties and called on the two countries to iron out differences.

The idea of "trust" as pointed out by Iraq's deputy foreign minister, who recently paid a visit to Iran, is a key word in the absence of which nothing can be accomplished between the two countries, wrote 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial.

"In fact", the paper said, "since a year or two after the termination of active hostilities between the two countries, both Tehran and Baghdad have tried to bring about that needed atmosphere of trust so that as a next step dialogue can be established to resolve the many outstanding issues between them".

If up to now there has been little or perhaps no advance in the resolution of issues it must be because there has been a pronounced failure in the efforts to establish that element of trust, the daily noted. The article then referred to the bomb explosion in Tehran on April 19 and said that the Iranian disciplinary forces have blamed, for the first time, Baghdad for having been behind the incident.

"No country should support terrorist activities jeopardizing the lives of innocent people in other countries. That holds specially true about Baghdad in view of its ongoing economic and political isolation under the U.N. sanctions."

The daily advised Baghdad to open a new chapter in its foreign relations with other countries based on understanding and trust to help alleviate the suffering of its people as a result of the past two wars.

The element of trust is specially of great importance in Baghdad's relations with Iran in view of the nature and magnitude of the unresolved issues, the paper noted. The approval of bomb planting in a busy Tehran street goes directly counter to the spirit of desire for normalized ties with Tehran, the daily said adding that Baghdad has more enemies on its hands than it can handle and there is no reason why it should want to aggravate ties with Iran.

The paper concluded by saying that Iran and Iraq have a lot in common and Tehran can become a helpful future friend for Iraq if differences are ironed out.

New Rocket Fuel Tested in Missile Maneuvers

LD2904175394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The Thamen al-A'emmeh shore-to-sea missile maneuver ended today by achieving all its objectives. According to a report dispatched by the Central News Unit from the Persian Gulf center, during the concluding phase of this maneuver the brave personnel of the navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, by utilizing the most advanced missile system, performed the operations of firing a shore-to-sea missile with full success.

Rocket fuel manufactured by Iran was used for the first time during these courageous operations, and the shore-to-sea missile precisely hit the hypothetical enemy.

On the last day of this maneuver there were also naval operations, tracking, reconnaissance and patrol operations. The flight units flew over the operational area, utilizing the most modern tactics and combat-defense inventions.

Jannati Delivers Tehran Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2904104594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Today in the Friday prayers sermons in Tehran Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati stressed that fighting against slackness and strengthening working ethics during the period of reconstruction should be given top priority.

Referring to the Workers' Week, the acting Friday imam of Tehran said: During the period of reconstruction the role of workers is very important and basic. He also stressed the constructive role of teachers.

Jannati said that the issue of reconstruction has many different dimensions. He said that greater and more extensive use should be made of committed human resources in various fields.

Ayatollah Jannati also stressed the importance of frugality in all fields. He pointed out that it is very important for Muslims to pay greater attention to the tragedy of Bosnia, and to find ways of solving that crisis.

Criticizes Turkey for Talks With Israel

LD2904131094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1032 GMT 29 Apr 94

[First Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization and acting Friday prayers leader, in Tehran on 29 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is being said that in the future instead of an oil war we will have a water war in the world. Even now, Israel is stealing water. It is trying to divert the waters of Lebanon and take them to its own side. In other places also there is fighting over water. They sit down with Turkey and talk about water. May God bestow some intelligence on those who, due to distorted thinking, provide a foothold for the Israelis to come to the Islamic countries. They do not realize that they are inciting their own people against themselves. Turkey is an Islamic country. Even if the Turkish officials turn the world upside down, Turkey is an Islamic country. The Turkish nation has not deserted Islam. No matter what Ataturk said, he said it simply for his own benefit. The Turkish people are Muslims. Can Muslim people tolerate the fact that Israel, which is killing Muslims, will find a foothold in their country, and that Turkish officials are making such arrangements?

In any case, we need to make savings in water, in electricity, and in other things. [passage omitted]